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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk March 5, 2017

East edition No 754

EDUCATION

Schools feel the squeeze over places

Hundreds miss out on getting one of the choices on their list

DEVELOPMENT

Dreamland's arena vision

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Editors piece here ghgh heading hghghfghghgh

OUR county has become somewhat used to massive delays on massive transport infrastructure decisions.

A few years ago we were left hanging for what seemed like a ludicrous amount of time while the debate over an airport in the Thames Estuary was discussed. But while anyone with half a brain (I'm talking to you Boris), knew it was fanciful thinking - if for no other reason than purely on cost and geography alone - there was still an agonising period when it appeared there was a very real chance it could take flight.

Now, of course, we're in the position of which Lower Thames Crossing is it going to be. Again, it would take a very brave man indeed to back against the Gravesham option which everyone, apart from those who live in the area, appears to support.

We've been waiting too long already for this decision. Distracted by Brexit or not, surely someone somewhere already knows - and let's be honest we all probably do - where it's going to go so let's announce it.

Because it is the uncertainty which causes the real disruption. People simply do not know if their homes are at risk or could be blighted. Even the good folk of Dartford must have a little doubt they'll get lumbered with yet another crossing to add to their pollution soup.

In short, even if nothing happens immediately, simply making that decision (and surely they've had enough professional and public input by now) will allow people to respond and make decisions about their lives. Surely that is better than this limbo in which everyone finds themselves in?

That is surely the least they can do. Frankly, Kent's had enough of the dangling, so, Westminster, let's get on with the decision-making!

Editor **Chris Britcher**

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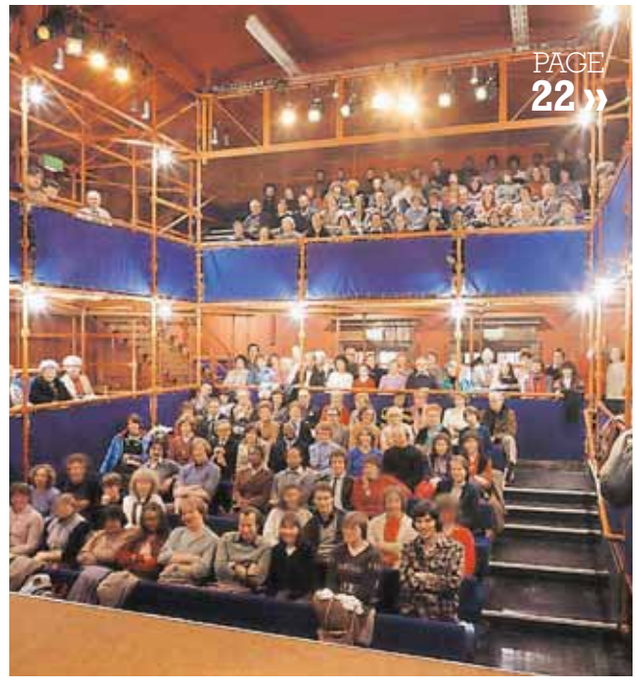

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Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Are we finally on verge of decision over crossing?

By Luke May
luke.may@archant.co.uk

POSSIBLE: Highways England's preferred route would see a bored tunnel in Gravesham.

A DECISION on the Lower Thames Crossing could be just weeks away, according to one MP.

Senior figures in Dartford and Gravesham are predicting a decision soon, with sources claiming a it could come from government by March 19.

That's when councils enter purdah prior to the county council elections on May 4 - a period where local and central governments have to stop making decisions which could sway the voters.

There has also been speculation the government could finally end the agony during the chancellor's budget on Wednesday, but that now appears unlikely.

A decision had been expected last year but is thought to have been put on the backburner while the government came to terms with the reality of Brexit.

The two options are either for another at Dartford or, Highways England's preferred route, east of Gravesend, referred to as Option C.

Businesss chiefs say a decision has to be made - and soon- to prevent continued uncertainty.

Gravesend Tory MP Gareth Johnson quipped to KoS: "It could be announced this month, but Phillip Hammond doesn't share his budget with me beforehand.

"It would be unusual for the treasury to announce a decision on a Department for Transport consultation though."

This time last year a consultation on the crossing became the largest ever for a UK road project with more than 47,000 responses.

Mr Johnson added it would be 'catastrophic' for Dartford to have a second crossing, adding "it would be mad for the DfT to fly in the face of their own advisors".

Option C would see a road created from the M2, heading through Gravesham past villages such as Shorne where a bored tunnel would cross to Tilbury.

Bryan Sweetland, Gravesham Rural county councillor, said: "Even if the government does support Option C, before a car even uses the crossing I think there will be plans to build another one at Dartford, because building here won't fix the problems there."

A DfT spokesperson said: "Views put forward in the consultation will inform the government's decision on the location, route and type of crossing. The government is considering the findings and will take a decision in due course."

Super council plan will create 'an EU for east Kent', warn councillors

UKIP councillors in east Kent say the proposed merger of Thanet, Dover, Shepway and Canterbury councils could create an "EU for east Kent".

Calling it "bad for democracy" they instead call for more powers to be devolved to town and parish councils.

Ironically, Thanet is the only Ukip controlled council in the UK.

In a joint statement, the councillors also said a full unitary authority could be the best way forward - similiar to that of Medway, which split from Kent County Council.

The statement signed by 11 Ukip councillors from Canterbury, Dover and Shepway said: "Many of us agree that ultimately, a unitary authority is perhaps the way forward in terms of delivering real value for money for council tax payers. However, at this point in time, the merger at district level is not necessarily in the best interests of residents across all of these areas.

"The devolution of power to town and parish councils, if done correctly, will give a stronger voice for local decision making.

"We believe the proposed merger is being rushed through and devolution should be in place before such a merger is actioned.

"The proposed merger, in it's current format, looks something like an EU for east Kent and would be bad for democracy, potentially taking decision-making even further away from residents, many of whom already feel, at best, under-represented and at worst, ignored.

"Rather than roll over and simply accept the funding cuts imposed by central government, all local authorities should be lobbying for the funding model to be revised."

Those signing the statement include Shepway councillors Susie Govett, Mary Lawes, Carol Sacre and Frank McKenna; Canterbury's Geoff Wimble and David Hirst; Dover's Ben Glayzer and Georgette Rapley; KCC councillor Hod Birkby; Hawkinge Town Council's David Callahan and Dymchurch Parish Council's Terry Mullard.

Cop charged with indecent images suspended from duty

A POLICE officer facing a number of charges including voyeurism and taking indecent videos has been suspended.

Timothy Neville Ryton, formerly of Folkestone, was arrested on January 23 after he was questioned by officers.

Upon his arrest, the 45-year-old was formally suspended from duty.

He was charged on Thursday with three counts of distributing indecent images, two charges of voyeurism, two counts of taking indecent videos and two counts of distribution of indecent videos.

A police spokesman said: ''Inspector Ryton will be subject to internal disciplinary proceedings in due course.''

He has been bailed to appear at Crawley magistrates on March 29.

MP's aide charged over rape and sexual assault claims

A SENIOR aide to South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay has been charged over an allegation of rape.

It follows an alleged incident at the Houses of Parliament in the early hours of Friday, October 14.

More than four months on, officers from Met Police have now charged Samuel Armstrong.

The 23-year-old from Danbury in Essex was charged on Thursday with two counts of rape and one count of sexual assault.

The chief of staff in Mr Mackinlay's parliamentary office, who was suspended when the allegations emerged, has been bailed to appear before Westminster magistrates on March 31. A spokesperson from Craig Mackinlay's office said: ''This is now a matter for the criminal justice system.''

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Uni alumni behind BBC's big drama hit SS-GB

UNIVERSITY of Kent alumni Neal Purvis and Robert Wade have another hit on their hands as the screenwriters behind BBC big budget drama SS-GB.

Based on the Len Deighton book of a Britain invaded by the Nazis in 1941, the duo were commissioned to start work on the script back in November 2014. The five-episode mini series is currently on BBC One on Sunday nights.

Neal Purvis studied film and photographic arts, while Robert Wade studied film theory and English at the university.

Their teamwork so far has seen them script the last six James Bond films and be described as 'one of Britain's most successful screenwriting partnerships'.

Dreamland unveils its 15,000 capacity arena in bid to hit the right notes

By Emily King

BOSSES behind Margate's iconic Dreamland amusement park have invested millions ahead of its re-opening on April 28 as it seeks to finally come up with a formula to ensure its long-term surival.

The cash-strapped park's operators, Sands Heritage Ltd, went into administration last May after racking up debts of £14million - less than a year after it was re-opened with a huge fanfare.

But it struggled to pull in punters with its line up of vintage rides and administrators have spent the time revamping its offering.

As part of the recent investment is a 15,000-capacity stage area which it is hoped will welcome some of the biggest music acts to the seaside town.

In addition, it has splashed out on new vintage rides, will serve up "adventurous street food" and all set against "interactive art installations".

FRESH: How park will look

The administrators have previously stated the investment - fuelled by a £15m line of credit from Cayman Island-based Arrowgrass Capital Partners - will prepare the site in order for a potential sale later this year.

Jennie Double, commercial director at Dreamland Margate, said: "We cannot wait to unveil the new park to locals and visitors alike. By combining contemporary food and culture with authentic vintage rides and the uniquely British heritage that only we can offer – we believe we've captured something truly special with this newly imagined incarnation of Dreamland."

Dreamland has looked to build on its reputation as a live music venue recently with shows in its 2,000-capacity Hall By The Sea which, in years gone by, saw shows by the likes of the Rolling Stones and The Who.

Already confirmed for this year are chart stars The Kills and Tunbridge Wells' punk outfit Slaves.

New rides for this year include the Brooklands Speedway, Wedgwood Tea Cups and The Crazy Mouse.

Chris Wells, leader of Thanet District Council, said: "It's great to see plans taking shape to restore Dreamland to its former glory. It has been an essential part of Margate's identity for nearly 100 years."

STAR: Canterbury's Orlando Bloom

Orlando and Katy Perry confirm split

POP star Katy Perry has insisted "no one's a victim or a villain" after her split from Kent actor Orlando Bloom.

The US singer posted a message on Twitter in which she appeared to address her break-up from Bloom after it was confirmed earlier this week.

Without naming the Pirates Of The Caribbean actor, Perry wrote: "How (about) a new way of thinking for 2017?

"(You) can still (be) friends and love (your) former partners! No one's a victim or a villain, get a life y'all!"

Perry's message came as she unveiled a dramatic new hairstyle, going from a long blonde bob to a shaved pixie cut.

In a joint statement issued earlier this week, Perry, 32, and Bloom, 40, confirmed they were taking a break from their relationship.

The famous duo had been dating for little more than year and were spotted together at the Vanity Fair Oscars after-party on Sunday night.

Their statement said: "Before rumours or falsifications get out of hand we can confirm that Orlando and Katy are taking respectful, loving space at this time."

Bloom has a son with supermodel ex-wife Miranda Kerr while Perry was previously married to British comedian Russell Brand.

Our police gets good rating from watchdog

KENT Police was one of 28 forces across the country to be rated 'good' in a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularly (HMIC).

The report grabbed headlines this week for branding a number of authorities 'inadequate' sparking a debate over the impact of budget cuts on policing in the country.

HM inspector Zoe Billingham warned: ''We are leading to a very serious conclusion regarding the potentially perilous state of British policing,''

Kent's police and crime commissioner, Matthew Scott, said he was ''pleased'' by the outcome of the report and that steps were already being taken to ensure issues highlighted in the report were being handled. He added: ''HMIC said Kent Police needs to understand why so many crimes are not being progressed either because the victim does not support police action or because there are difficulties in securing sufficient evidence, and so it is good to see that Kent Police has already begun looking at this issue,''

Hospital trust sees quality improvements

THE trust responsible for the three main east Kent hospitals has taken a step toward leaving special measures.

East Kent Hospitals NHS University Foundation Trust, was put in special measures in September 2014 when inspectors branded services 'inadequate'.

But consistent improvements saw the trust's rating move up to 'requires improvement' in 2015, and successful inspections at the William Harvey in Ashford, QEQM in Margate and Kent and Canterbury hospitals at the end of 2016 have helped pull the trust out of quality special measures. Now its focus is coming out of financial special measures too.

Chief executive Matthew Kershaw applauded the 'hard work and dedication' of staff at the trust, and said: ''We have significantly reduced our financial deficit from £35m in 2015/16 to a forecast £24m deficit this year. We have reduced agency spend by 11 per cent, improved our financial position every quarter since April 2015 and are on track to deliver a much reduced deficit this year.''

City centre pipeline to cause road delays

A BUS lane in Canterbury city centre is set to close for around 10 weeks as part of multi-million pound water works.

South East Water is installing a new water main on the ring road near Canterbury East railway station - needed to maintain water pressure to the student accommodation being developed at the Canterbury Christ Church University campus in Rhodaus Town.

The 570-metre pipe will stretch from the university site and Pin Hill near the Wincheap roundabout.

Work is due to get under way on March 13 and will also involve some night working at weekends to minimise traffic disruption when the pipeline is laid across the dual carriageway into Castle Row.

Stephen Bundock, project manager at South East Water, said: ''We expect this work to take approximately 18 weeks but our contractor will be working as safely and as quickly as possible to complete the project. We are working closely with the highways authority and would like to apologise for any traffic disruption this work will cause.''

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Plans set to be submitted for Sevenoaks secondary school

By Chris Britcher
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AN APPLICATION will be made this month to build a new primary and secondary school for Sevenoaks.

Those behind plans for the new 'all-through' free school - to be known as the Da Vinci School - will submit plans to the Department for Education.

It will be a mainstream, non-selective, offering places from reception year through to year 11.

The site of the school has not yet been revealed but the primary is planned to be accessible to children in the rural areas of Hildenborough, Leigh and north Tonbridge.

Da Vinci's secondary element would plan to offer places to students from Edenbridge, East Grinstead, Lingfield, Crowborough, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Paddock Wood, Kings Hill and Tunbridge Wells, where "significant pressure for places is building and where there are fewer choices outside of faith, grammar and private schools".

A spokesman for the education professionals behind the project said: "The catchment areas for those who currently travel out of area will shrink to reflect this. With only around 30 per cent of Sevenoaks pupils attending mainstream secondary provision within Sevenoaks district this could become quite a concern. It has been shown that there will be a need for 307 year seven places in these areas in 2019, increasing to 832 in 2025, and again this is without taking account of any planned housing.

"The team is asking that the local community show support to demonstrate to the Department for Education that there is demand for a new mainstream school in this area. "The Da Vinci School will not only provide a great place to learn for a wide range of pupils but will also ease pressure on other local schools that are currently over-subscribed and difficult to get into.

A public information evening took place on Friday at the Eden Centre in Edenbridge and another takes place at the Masonic Hall in St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells on March 16 at 8pm.

Work on a new grammar annexe on the site of the old Wildernesse School is currently under way - extending selective places for girls of Tonbridge's Weald of Kent.

PLANS: No details have been released yet as to where the Da Vinci school will be

Farage joins in Trump attack on media bias

NIGEL Farage dined with US president Donald Trump last weekend after addressing American conservatives at a conference and joined him in attacking the media.

The former Ukip leader who lived in Westerham, said: "They are simply not prepared to accept that Brexit happened, that Trump happened. They want to turn the clock back; they are losing viewers, listeners, and this battle."

Extradition hearing after arrest in Italy

A 24-year-old wanted in connection to a rape in Ramsgate last year has been arrested in southern Italy and will now face an extradition hearing.

Rafiullah Hamidy was detained in Tranto after Kent officers secured a European arrest warrant. It follows an incident in the Northwood Road area on September 18.

Big Weekend all set

ENTRIES for tickets for this year's Kent Big Weekend event closed on Friday.

More than 160,000 applications had been made for the free giveaway which this year takes palce over the weekend of April 1 and 2.

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Sheps' cautious outlook as it reveals interim financials

FAVERSHAM brewery Shepherd Neame says it continues to have a "cautious outlook" despite an encouraging set of interim financial figures for the second half of 2016.

Both turnover and underlying operating profit grew significantly on the same time the previous year.

However, statutory profit before tax was down to £6.7m, from £8.7m 12 months before. It put that drop down to a one-off financial boost from the sale of land in 2015.

The brewer and pub operator said it acquired 13 freehold pubs during the period, which saw turnover rise by 7.4 per cent to £79.2m - up from £73.7m the year below. Underlying operating profit grew by 6.5 per cent to £7.6m.

Jonathan Neame, the firm's chief executive, said: "I am delighted to report a strong performance and a period of significant acquisition activity. Our pub business has been driven by good like-for-like sales growth. It is also encouraging to note solid growth in own brand beer volume. We retain a cautious outlook as we are likely to be entering a period of increased cost inflation. However, I am confident we have the right strategy to deliver value for our shareholders for the long term."

Social worker struck off after fiddling expenses

A SOCIAL worker with Kent County Council has been struck off the Health and Care Professions Council after being sacked for gross misconduct.

Robert Atkinson, who worked as a specialist case manager working with older people in west Kent, was dismissed by the county council in October 2014 after being found to have fiddled his expenses.

Now he has been kicked off the independent regulator which keeps a register for 16 different health and care professions. It only registers people who meet the standards it sets for their training, professional skills, behaviour and health.

A panel of the HCPC conduct and competence committee heard that Mr Atkinson submitted inaccurate claims for travel expenses on three occasions whilst employed by the council.

The panel further heard the claims were made for return journeys to three care homes, when no visits had taken place.

Panel chair Penny Griffith said: "The panel finds that Mr Atkinson has demonstrated a lack of insight into his misconduct by reason of his denials of the factual particulars which have been found proved.

"As a result of this, there has been no remediation and consequently there is an ongoing risk of repetition. In respect of the public component the finding of dishonesty gives rise to a breach of a fundamental tenet of the profession and is likely to bring the profession into disrepute."

Dover ups council tax

COUNCIL taxpayers in Dover had it confirmed this week the slice towards the local council will rise by 2.8 per cent.

Dover District Council rubber-stamped the rise, in line with most other authorities. The biggest chunk of the bill is for Kent County Council.

Cannabis farm found

THREE men were arrested after police raided a cannabis farm in Ashford on Wednesday.

More than 200 fully-grown plants and associated cultivation equipment was found at the Eden Business Centre, south of the town.

Royal advisor's lecture

A SPECIAL advisor to the Prince of Wales is to deliver a special free lecture at the University of Kent on March 9 at 6.30pm.

Tony Juniper will talk about the economy and its relationship with the environment at the Woolf Lecture Theatre at the university's Canterbury campus.

Bluewater six released

SIX people arrested following a report of a sexual assault at a car park at Bluewater last March have been released without charge due to insufficient evidence.

Officers are continuing to support the victim and will review the case should any further information be received.

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DJ Sara 'in fear' of stalker

By Tom Pugh
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A STALKER who admitted placing BBC Radio 2 DJ Sara Cox "in great fear" by sending her a series of letters and hoarding indecent images of children is set to be sentenced at crown court.

Anthony Collins, 49, from Chatham pleaded guilty on February 11 to harassment relating to notes posted to the 42-year-old host of The Great Pottery Throw Down on BBC Two and the former host of the Radio 1 Breakfast Show.

Medway Magistrates' Court heard Collins sent the star a series of letters handwritten in felt-tip pen along with a printed photo of Cox, referred to in court by her married name Cyzer.

Prosecutor Paul Edwards said Collins wrote that he was lonely, that his mother had died from cancer and his brother had drowned in a river.

He added that most of his friends were dead, that he suffered from bipolar disorder, and he asked Cox to invite him to Radio 2's studios, saying she was "sexy".

The court was told that Cox's husband also received a handwritten letter, along with a picture of his celebrity wife holding a child.

Mr Edwards told magistrates the victim was "a well-known disc jockey at the BBC".

He said: "The matter was reported to the police on February 8 and the defendant was subsequently arrested.

"The victim was placed in great fear by the nature of the letters. It's not so much that there were threats, but clearly there was a process of stalking and doing lots of research."

When Collins was arrested on February 10, police found indecent images of children, Mr Edwards went on.

In addition to admitting harassment, Collins, formerly of Afghan Road, Chatham, pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing indecent images and two counts of making indecent images of children.

Collins appeared in court legally unrepresented via video link.

He told magistrates he had "extensive mental health disorders".

Chairman of the bench Veenod Rama further remanded Collins in custody to appear for sentencing at Maidstone Crown Court on a date to be fixed.

Sara Cox presents Sounds of the 80s on BBC Radio 2.

THREATENED: DJ and TV presenter, Sara Cox was stalked by Andrew Collins

Gang in bar attack jailed

Three men have been jailed after an assault which left a 23-year-old man with multiple breaks to his jaw after a dispute in a Maidstone bar.

David Ademiju, Joseph Jabatie, and Sam Grief carried out the assault in September in Upper Stone Street. They all denied charges of GBH but were convicted at Maidstone Crown Court and sentenced on Thursday.

Ademiju, 27, of Brewer Street received seven and a half years, Jabatie, 34, of Thackeray Road, Larkfield, seven years and Grief, 24, from Lucerne Street, four years and five months.

Pensioner's head injury

A 78-year-old woman was in hospital this week with a serious head injury after being hit by a car in Tunbridge Wells.

Police and emergency services were called at around 10.49am on Monday after reports a black Vauxhall Zafira had hit a pedestrian on Prospect Road, near the junction to Pembury Road. The driver had remained at the scene.

Police are appealing for witnesses.

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ARCHANT

Authorities count true cost of the new £1 coin

This month the Royal Mint releases the 12-sided coin, prompting our councils to upgrade parking machines

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CASH-strapped local authorities across the county are facing a combined bill of around £250,000 to ensure parking and vending machines are ready to accept the new one pound coin when it enters circulation later this month.

The 12-sided security-conscious coin will replace the existing one which was launched back in 1983.

However, amid mounting concerns over the number of counterfeit coins in circulation - it is estimated around one in every 30 is a fake - the Royal Mint has commissioned a coin which should pose a real headache to forgers.

But it's also proved a financial pain to our borough and district councils as they rush to adjust their automated machines in time.

CHANGE: Parking is main issue

By October, the current £1 coin will no longer be legal tender.

Car park machines are the primary focus of councils' changes, but there are also swimming pool lockers to consider too.

All authorities have handled things a little differently - with some taking the opportunity to completely replace their existing machines, while others have simply changed the mechanism of handling the coin.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council said it has recently been out to tender and will replace car parking machines across the borough in time for the release of the new £1.

A spokesman explained: "There are 41 machines across the borough which will be replaced at a cost of £117,861.40-plus VAT.

"The lockers at Larkfield Leisure Centre will be replaced in time for the release of the new £1 coin, at an approximate cost of £44,000.

"The lockers at the other borough leisure facilities will probably only require a change of their locking mechanism, the cost of which will be borne by Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust who manage the leisure facilities on behalf of the council.

"Vending machines are in private ownership and will be dealt with accordingly by their owners."

Robert Styles, director of street scene, leisure and technical services for the authority added: "The car parking machines across Tonbridge and Malling Borough and the lockers at Larkfield Leisure Centre have come to the end of their useful lives and are due for replacement. The council has taken a common sense approach and timed the replacements to coincide with the release of the new £1 coin. In this way we have ensured that we have avoided any additional cost burden."

A spokesman for Thanet District Council, meanwhile, told us: "We have to change the specification of 105 machines for the new £1 coin and will cost the council around £15.500.

"We also have had to purchase a new cash sorting machine at the cost of £8,500. There has been no financial help or reimbursement from the government."

Similiar in shape to the old three-penny bit, the new coin includes a hidden piece of technology within it which, it is claimed, will enable coin sorting machines to identify which are fakes.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the Royal Mint is keeping just what it is a closely guarded secret.

Dual-coloured - similar to the £2 coin - it also features a new portrait of the Queen and a hologram - another measure aimed at deterring any counterfeiters.

Dartford said its main cost was parking machines which was costing it around £6,000 with a management company for its leisure complex footing the bill for changes there.

It was a similiar situation at Swale. A spokesman explained: "For our car parks the cost to update pay and display machines to accept new coins is £4,275.

"The changes were planned and funded from the service budget, so nothing from the government, and not the contractors as they don't own the machines, to make sure our customers are able to use the new coins within our car parks when they come into circulation."

Asked if there is any criticism of the introduction, the council said: "It is just one of those things. We knew it was coming, so had to budget for it."

Simply finding a parking space in Maidstone is often an achievement - so you'll be pleased to learn if you do, the machines will be ready.

A spokesman for the borough council explaining: "There are 56 machines in Maidstone - 45 metric machines and 11 Parkeon [machines capable of also taking cards].

"The costs incurred for the metric machine conversion is £4,275-plus VAT which is around £95 each, and for Parkeon it is £2,178.00-plus VAT which is £198 each."

Medway Council had to upgrade over 150 machines, setting it back £16,136.

A spokesman for Ashford said: "The introduction of the 12-sided £1 coin is a national change of course and so this is something that has been expected and planned for.

"A minor modification is required to the machines that will then enable them to accept both the existing and soon-to-be introduced £1 coins. This change will be made in April, when the slight increase in parking fees takes effect – meaning both changes, which need to be made by the manufacturer, can be done at the same time.

"It will cost approximately £9,900 to adapt the machines to accept the new coin."

Councillor David Monk, leader of Shepway District Council, said: "It will cost us a total of £7,658 to alter our parking pay and display machines but if this helps stop fraud on a national scale that must be a good thing."

Councils have been stung in recent years by huge reductions in central government funding which has left them forced to cut many provisions to the bone.

Gravesham Borough Council dipped into a fund not provided by the taxpayer for its changes, however.

A spokesman explained: "The change to pay and display machines to accept new pound coins was funded from the decriminalised account, which is funded from parking tickets. Therefore, at no cost to the tax payer. We have 42 machines that have been replaced which cost £8,316-plus VAT."

At Tunbridge Wells, the council said: "We have paid £6,318-plus VAT to upgrade pay and display machines in our car parks."

Sevenoaks District Council explained it had spent £14,000 upgrading all 75 of its pay and display parking machines.

Dover said it installed 68 brand new parking machines last December, as part of a routine maintenance programme, and were already equipped to deal with the new coin.

Canterbury also took a more long term approach.

A spokesman explained: "We have finished converting all our parking machines at an estimated cost of £30,000. Our view is that this is something that happens and you have to get on and deal with it."

The British Parking Association said: "We have been working closely with the Royal Mint to ensure that its members, who include local authorities, parking operators, and parking machine manufacturers, are ready to accept the new £1 coin wherever possible at launch.

"Most parking machine manufacturers are members of the BPA and they say they are positive they will be able to manage the upgrade in a timely manner.

"The major pay and display machine manufacturers begun the upgrades over 12 months ago and are also starting to incorporate acceptance of the new coin on new equipment being manufactured and delivered.

"This is a huge programme of work and the Royal Mint recognises this with the planned six-month co-circulation period, at the end of which all coin handling equipment should be ready to accept the new £1 coin.

"Some believe that the advent of the new £1 coin may encourage a move towards cashless payment systems, but there is evidence to suggest that significant numbers of motorists are not ready to embrace modern payment systems, preferring coins."

SUFFERING: Eating disorders are seen as a mental health issue and need a high priority and more funding, says Labour's Mike Eddy

Call for eating disorder beds as patients sent as far as Scotland

A report revealed that those in the county needing particular specialist treatment have been sent hundreds of miles due to a lack of beds - an issue which NHS England insists is now being addressed

By Adele Couchman
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Seriously ill patients with eating disorders from Kent are among those being sent as far away as Scotland because bed shortages mean they cannot be cared for in their local area.

It is understood they are among many vulnerable patients from England who have been sent hundreds of miles away to get residential treatment at a specialist eating disorder clinic in Glasgow.

Figures from NHS England reveal there were 376 out-of-area placements for eating disorder patients from Kent, Surrey and Sussex during 2016. Although the majority of those travelled to specialist eating disorder units in London, 12 were sent to Southampton and six to Glasgow - including patients sent from Kent.

Currently, there are no inpatient beds in Kent for seriously ill eating disorder patients needing access to the highest level of care. The Red House in Maidstone was the only place in Kent to provide inpatient treatment, but a decision was made to close the six beds provided at the unit in 2015.

Eating disorder treatment in Kent currently includes outpatient therapy, primary care liason, day patient treatments and outreach services, as well as a primary care early intervention service for people aged 14 and upwards whose GPs suspect may have or be developing anorexia or bulimia. The services, which are run by the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, saw 371 patients in 2016 compared to 306 in 2015.

To keep up with demand, NHS England has announced 20 beds will become available for eating disorder patients this year in the south east - although it is not yet known whether these beds will be allocated in the county.

Labour councillor Mike Eddy, who sits on Kent County Council's health overview and scrutiny committee, said sending eating disorder patients as far as Glasgow for care was "just another example of the underfunding of our health service".

He told KoS: "An eating disorder is a physical manifestation of something which is very psychological, and there is great concern if someone is having to go so far away to get the help and support they need.

"The government have been doing work to improve mental health services generally, but then that's a bit like saying the roof is falling off the house so we are visibly trying to repair the windows.

"There's so much guff from the government about needing to do more, but they are not radically increasing funding in the NHS - which means it won't go into mental health either.

"If mental health is the Cinderella service of the NHS, eating disorders are Cinderella's Cinderella."

Mr Eddy went on to say that although Kent's local NHS trust has radically reduced out-of-area placements for mentally ill patients, more still needs to be done.

"There are still pressures on the beds and there has not been a radical change. The trust relies on a lot of other organisations like the police and the council - so it's a bit like reorganising the deckchairs but not actually getting anymore to sit out on one.

"We need better provision across the whole system, where we make sure people are intervened with earlier, and when they get to the point where they need a bed there is one available. At the moment we have a form of gatekeeping, where people are told they are not ill enough to access that service.

"We still have a number of GPs in the county who don't really understand how to deal with mental health patients, and that adequate community care needs to be in place to stop someone going into hospital in the first place.

"If we are having to move people as far as Glasgow as we can't deal with treating people closer to home, then we definitely need some sort of provision. That can't be helping the patient or their family."

A recent report on private hospital The Priory in Glasgow revealed that over half of the 20 patients being cared for on its eating disorder unit were from England at the end of October 2016.

The specialist eating disorder facility is a 25-bed unit for women, which provides specialist, high-end care for those suffering with anorexia, bulimia, and other forms of psychiatric illness linked to eating habits.

During 2016, it is understood NHS England sent patients from Kent to use this facility.

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland, which published the report highlighting the number of Priory patients from England, said it was concerned at the high number of patients being transferred long distances for care - some of whom were unable to be visited by friends and family due to finances.

The eating disorder charity Beat has expressed deep concern about patients being sent hundreds of miles away for care.

Beat's clinical advisor Dr. Richard Sly said: "Eating disorders are complex mental illnesses which often prove isolating in nature. To take a patient away from their family, friends and support structures can increase this sense of isolation.

"Secondly, it is to be expected that following treatment, patients will return home to continue their recovery. If they have received treatment hundreds of miles from home, they are unlikely to have had ample opportunity to address the many possible triggering situations that may be unique to that home environment.

"In my clinical experience, I have seen many patients struggle with the transition from inpatient treatment to living back at home. If little work has been done in their home environment or geographical area, where many of that patients' triggers will be, this transition can be particularly challenging."

A spokesperson for NHS England said sometimes it was necessary to send patients outside of the south of England to provide the very best care.

They added: "We are increasing investment in mental health and in improving access to treatment for eating disorders. We are working to increase provision of this very specialist service in the south region – with an increase of 20 additional beds in the south east area. It takes time to transform services, but this will help to give the very best care, closer to home, reducing the need to use eating disorder unit care outside of the region."

The government has set a national ambition to eliminate inappropriate out of area placements in mental health services for adults and children in inpatient care by 2021.

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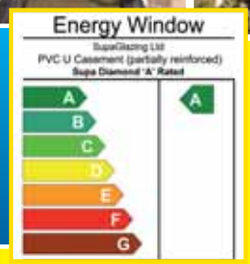

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MP questions if school is best place to teach sex education

In the week the government signalled it is to ensure all pupils are taught about relationships, one Kent politician thinks it is too much, too young if those lessons include teaching lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues.

By Emily King
Emily.King@archant.co.uk

IN the week the education minister said sex education is going to be compulsory in all secondary schools, a Kent MP says it is not the "time and place" to teach youngsters about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) relationship.

Conservative MP for South Thanet, Craig Mackinlay's comment look set to fly in the face of Justine Greening who this week announced children are to learn about healthy relationships from the age of four, with sex education compulsory in all secondary schools.

While not confirmed, that is expected to include alternatives to traditional hetrosexual relationships.

Parents will still have the right to withdraw their child from the classes, while religious schools will still be able to teach sex education within the tenets of their faith, the government announced.

It has been hailed as a victory by various pressure groups who have long called for existing sex education guidelines to be overhauled in light of the changing way in which society now accepts those of differing sexualities.

In a written statement, the education secretary said that statutory guidance for sex and relationships education (SRE) introduced in 2000 had become "increasingly outdated", failing to address issues that had become increasingly common, such as cyber bullying, sexting and online safety.

Under the move, all primary schools will have to teach age appropriate lessons about relationships, while secondaries will have to give classes in both sex and relationships.

Currently, sex education is compulsory only for secondary pupils in schools run by local authorities.

The change makes the subject mandatory in all schools, including academies, independent schools and religious free schools and extends the subject to include relationships and modern phenomena such as internet porn and sexting.

"I am announcing my intention to put relationships and sex education on a statutory footing, so every child has access to age appropriate provision, in a consistent way," the minister said.

She also said she was intending to make personal, social and health education (PSHE) compulsory in the future, following further consultation on what it should include.

The statement said: "The statutory guidance for sex and relationships education was introduced in 2000 and is becoming increasingly outdated.

"It fails to address risks to children that have grown in prevalence over the last 17 years, including cyber bullying, 'sexting' and staying safe online.

"Parents will continue to have a right to withdraw their children from sex education.

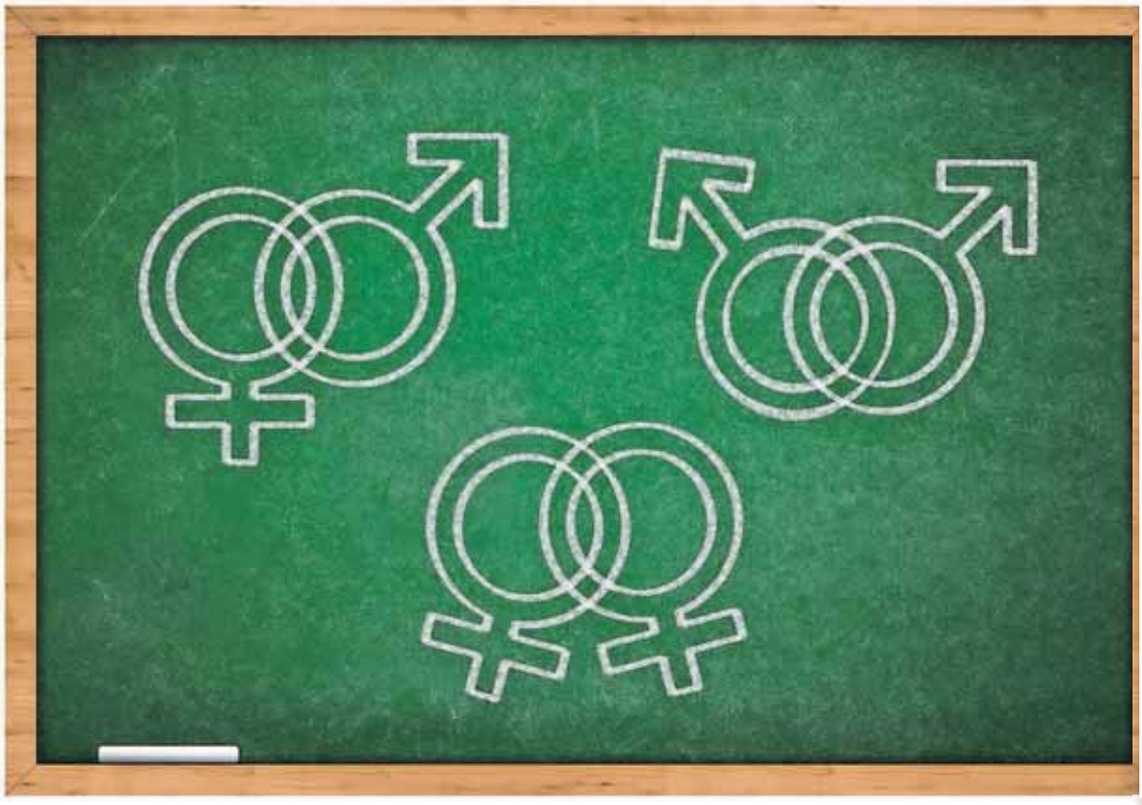
"Schools will have flexibility over how they deliver these subjects, so they can develop an integrated approach that is sensitive to the needs of the local community, and, as now, faith schools will continue to be able to teach in accordance with the tenets of their faith."

The leader of the East Kent branch of the Women's Equality Party, Allegra Galvin, welcomed the news: "A lot of the headline focus is on LGBT-inclusive sex and relationships education because that's why it's often rejected by faith schools. But it's really important to note that by not updating the topic as a whole we are doing young people a disservice, as what we're teaching is inadequate. In reality we need to have a really honest conversation with young people about their expectations from sex and relationships, and about whether they're realistic.

"The party also believes that gender awareness should be talked about much earlier as we see girls of 12 saying they don't want to play certain sports or learn certain subjects just because they think they're for boys.

"Essentially we think it should be mandatory because British modern values are inclusive of everyone, and reflect equality, but if we're not teaching teenagers about the LGBT community, then we're not promoting an equal society. We understand where faith schools are coming from, and why parents would wish to send their children to faith schools, but we still think it should be compulsory to learn LGBT-inclusive sex and relationships education, and then if parents feel the need to share their differing stance on the topic, then they can do that at home."

Speaking to KoS, Mr Mackinlay said: "I'm completely in favour of people's relationship choices, and I think everyone should be who they want to be and be with whoever they want to be with, but I don't think school is the time or place to educate young people about the LGBT community.



TEACHING: Education secretary Liz Truss, has said sex education will become mandatory at both primary and secondary schools across the country.

"I'm sure there will be opposition from faith schools and I'm sure a lot of people will be concerned if sex education is forced upon their children.

"I agree that parents need to be consulted on this matter. If the public and parents are for compulsory sex education, yes, let the changes happen, but it's good that they can opt out."

Ms Greening put emphasis on the subject being "age appropriate" meaning primary school children will not be taught about the biological mechanics of sex. Instead, they are likely to be taught about relationship issues.

Garry Ratcliffe, the executive headteacher of Oakfield Academies in Dartford, and chair of the north board of the Kent Association of Headteachers, agreed that was the best way forward.

■ **Continued on page 16**

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■ Continued from page 15

He said: "What we teach in schools needs to be age appropriate, hence why I agree that there is a need to consult parents on what will be taught. But on the flip side, all schools have a homophobic bullying agenda to tackle and need to teach young people to respect other's life choices, which includes trans people. Sex and relationships are ever-changing, which is why this update on what to teach could be good.

"My schools have displays around different families and promoting the same love. Schools need to be concious of different family make ups and the needs of the parent body.

"We need to promote different families, some children may have a gay uncle who has a partner, or an older sister who is lesbian. There is an emphasis in the guidelines on promoting marriage as a stable relationship, but we also have a duty to ensure we're covering every corner of our community, and keeping everything integrated."

Though the updated curriculum outline has not been produced yet, the Women's Equality Party cautioned that giving schools flexibility should not provide a loophole for institutions to avoid teaching children about LGBT+ relationships, and that they will continue to hold the government to account on this.

Russell Hobby, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT), said: "We welcome the announcements made this week.

"We have long advocated age appropriate sex education and PSHE, for all pupils in all schools, to help prepare young people for the challenges they will encounter in their adult lives and the current challenges they face beyond the school gates.

"It is so important for young people to be taught about appropriate relationships, and the duties set out today bring that one step closer.

"NAHT has long argued that SRE is best fulfilled as part of statutory PSHE, and we welcome the announcement of a review into the shape of this."

The Bishop of Ely, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, the Church of England's lead bishop on education, said every parent and teacher wanted the best for children and for them to be safe in a changing world, adding that many people, including many Christians, were concerned about what might be taught in schools, and whether children could be exposed to too much too young.

But he added: "It is becoming increasingly clear that what might have held in previous eras is no longer the most effective way of keeping our children safe and preparing them for life in the world in which they live.

"In an age when even primary school children are becoming exposed to online pornography, often by accident, and when practices such as 'sexting' are becoming commonplace at a younger and younger age, we cannot simply advocate an approach like the three monkeys coverings their eyes, ears and mouths, vowing to see, hear or speak no evil."

He added: "I believe there is a need for carefully targeted and age appropriate relationship education for children from primary school."

Jonathan Baggaley, chief executive of the PSHE Association, said: "This is a historic first step and a clear statement of intent from government.

"Following years of campaigning we are delighted that Justine Greening has taken this vital step to respond to the calls from parents, teachers and young people for all children in all schools to be prepared for the opportunities and challenges of modern life."

In primary schools, the focus would be on building healthy relationships and staying safe, the Department for Education (DfE) said, adding that as children got older it was important that they understood healthy adult relationships in more depth.

The government will hold discussions on what should be taught to children, and at what age, and there will be a full public consultation later this year.

Schoolchildren could be taught the new curriculum from as soon as September 2019, the department said.

■ What do you think? Is this a good idea? Share you views and join the debate. Email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to: The Editor, KoS, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP. We'll feature some of the best on our letters' page.

QUESTION: Tory MP Craig Mackinlay, with now- PM Theresa May during his election campaign in 2015

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Pressure is growing on schools as numbers rise

Hundreds fail to get one of their choice of secondary schools and the problem may intensify over the coming years

By Chris Britcher
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A FORMER headteacher and education consultant says Kent is going to have to cope with an additional 1,500 applications for secondary school places within the next three years.

It comes at a time of an almighty squeeze on education budgets for both grammars and non-selectives with many already having to cut their cloth according to the harsh economic realities - most notably by reducing staff numbers.

This year alone, the number of applications to Kent County Council for secondary places rose by 646.

But Peter Read, from Gravesend, who offers an educational advice service through his KentAdvice.co.uk website, says the rise in population - not including inward migration - could push our state school system to the limit.

"For 2017 entry, an additional 743 additional places have been created, including one new school, but one wonders how much longer can this approach continue?

"I am personally conscious of the increasing number of enquiries I have been receiving from London families, especially drawn to Kent's and increasingly to Medway's grammar schools. At least three more new schools are planned to open in the next few years, the first to come on stream being the Maidstone School of Science and Technology to open in September 2018, a new six form entry non-selective school adjacent to Valley Park and Invicta Grammar. Whilst this is planned to meet major expansion of Maidstone, it illustrates one of the collateral problems of setting up attractive new schools, as the less popular New Line Learning Academy will be very much at risk until demand catches up."

His comments come in the week parents were informed which school their child has been allocated a place at this September. School admissions day follows the closing of applications back in October where parents put their top four choices in order of preference.

Under Kent County Council's area, just over 80 per cent of children got their first choice, while Medway was slightly lower with just under 80 per cent.

However, of more concern for Kent were the hundreds of children across both authorities who failed to get any of their choices

Adds former grammar head Mr Read: "Sadly, 616 children did not get any of their choices which, whilst more than last year, is still better than 2015 and most previous years. KCC has been working hard negotiating with popular schools to admit additional pupils with considerable success, in what they describe as 'a challenging year'. The number of out of county children being awarded Kent places has hardly changed from 2016, settling at 810, although some of these will drop out as local alternatives present themselves.

WARNING: Former head teacher Peter Read is alert to the concerns over school places

PLACES: Parents found out this week where their children would be going

"The picture is very different in Medway although it is hard to be precise for, as always, their data is very skimpy. However, the bottom line is there is a fall of over five per cent in the proportion of children being offered their first choice of school, and a near doubling of the number getting none of their choices from 77 to 142 children - my approximate figures from the percentages given."

Roger Gough, Kent County Council's cabinet member for education and health reform, said: "As we predicted, this has proved Kent's most challenging year due to record numbers of applicants. In spite of the significant increase, 13,446 families will receive their first preference and 1,857 their second preference school.

"As is the case each year, a large number of applications have been made for Kent schools from outside of Kent and although this is a credit to our schools and their growing popularity, it makes meeting parental preferences ever more challenging. Out of the 19,442 applications received, 2,745 of these were from parents who do not live in Kent, and about a third of this number secured an offer of a Kent school.

"Unfortunately it is not always possible to offer parents one of their preferred schools. School allocations can only be made by KCC after all other preferences have been satisfied. Again we have seen many of those in need of an allocation, failing to name more than one preference. This limits the opportunity to access local schools at the outset and may mean we must offer an available school outside the immediate area if local schools have filled with named preferences.

"For those who have not secured a preferred school, I would like to reassure parents that this is the very first stage of the school allocation process and that a specialist Kent County Council team is on hand to help with any queries they may have. There will be considerable movement through waiting lists and the appeals process between now and September."

Medway Council's portfolio holder for educational attainment and improvement, Martin Potter, said simply: "It's great news that a vast majority of children have been offered a place at one of their top preference schools. Secondary school is a huge step for youngsters and I encourage them to keep working hard to achieve their full potential.

"The council will continue to support schools to further raise standards and challenge academy trusts and the regional schools commissioner on delivering the best outcomes for our Medway children."

Parents who applied online for a place, which was around 91 per cent of Kent applications, received an email after 4pm on Wednesday - all others were sent a letter by first class mail on that same day.

Kent saw 80.53 per cent given their first choice. That's in line with 2015's figures, but a dip on last year's when more than 81 per cent got their first choice.

In total, more than 91 per cent got either their first or second choice.

Despite the increase in numbers, more than 250 more children than last year will get their first preference secondary school and over 96 per cent will receive an offer from one of the four schools they named.

Of the 3,174 Medway children offered places, 79 per cent have been offered their first preference place, and 12 per cent have been awarded their second preference.

The unitary authority received applications from 3,799 children in total, including 625 from out of the area.

Parents will have until March 16 to accept or refuse their offer and return waiting list forms. Parents must also lodge any appeals for their named schools by March 29.

Kent County Council will reallocate places from schools' waiting lists sending out a second round of offers on April 28.

For those unhappy with their selection, Peter Read says: "If you are not awarded the school of your choice, then certainly go on the waiting list for every school you have applied for and still wish to consider.

"You have the right to appeal to any and every school for which you have been turned down.

"Obviously, you should talk to your primary school who should be able to offer advice and, if you are not sure of the school to which you have been allocated, ask for another visit, which is likely to be as an individual rather than with the crowd who were there on the open day.

"You also have the option of making a late application for a fresh school, called an 'in year application' from March 16 in Kent, or go on any school's waiting list after April 28.

"You can apply for as many schools as you wish through this process. Every year we see a considerable 'churning' effect as children take up places off the waiting lists, as children win appeals at higher preferences, and some unhappy families remove themselves from the state system, so don't lose hope."

Kenneth Noye: The career criminal who is edging towards his freedom

Success with a High Court challenge last month means the notorious killer could be set to move to an open jail. But who is the man who has become perhaps the most infamous of modern day crooks?

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ANYONE old enough to remember the killing of 21-year-old Stephen Cameron in an apparent road-rage attack on a slip road of the M25 at Swanley in 1996, will not need reminding of the man behind the crime - Kenneth Noye.

Yet now, more than 20 years on, Noye, now 69, could soon be taking his first steps towards release.

Given life for the killing in 2000 - and told he would spend a minimum of 16 years behind bars - last month he won a High Court challenge against then-justice secretary Michael Gove's refusal to allow him to move to an open prison.

Such prisons, which have a more relaxed regime, are traditionally designed for low-risk prisoners and those nearing the end of their sentence, as they start to adjust to returning to society after a long spell under lock and key.

The current justice secretary Liz Truss will have to consider his case again and she could again reject it, but for Noye, who used to live in West Kingsdown, it is the glimmer of hope he may once again walk free.

His notoriety, however, is almost certain to ensure any sort of normality is unlikely.

His criminal record includes convictions for his part in handling some of the haul of the £26m Brink's-Matt robbery in 1983. The biggest heist in British history at the time, crooks raided gold bullion from a warehouse in Heathrow.

Two years after the crime, as police investigated his possible involvement, he stabbed to death a police officer in the grounds of his Kent home - later being cleared on the grounds of self-defence.

However, he was later convicted of smelting some of the gold - much of it was never recovered - in 1986, fined £700,000 and sentenced to 14 years behind bars. He served seven before his release in 1994.

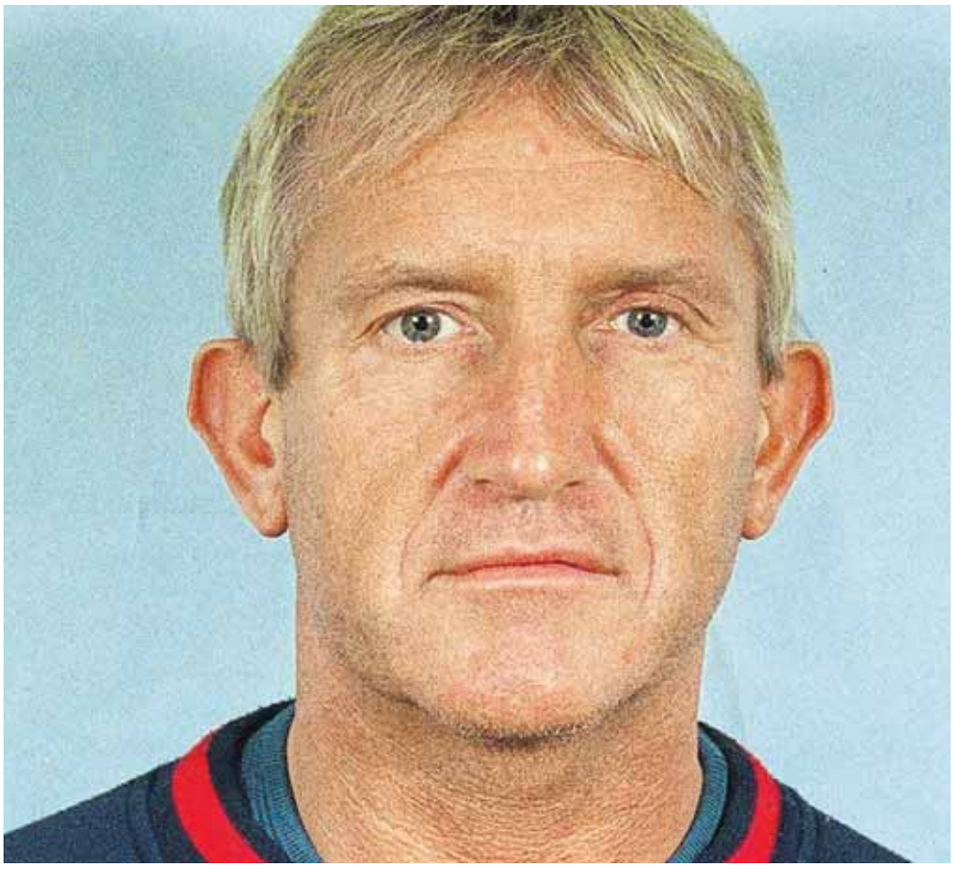
But it was the killing of Stephen Cameron - and the subsequent global manhunt after Noye went on the run - that made him a household name.

VICTIM: Dartford's Stephen Cameron was just 21 when he was stabbed to death by Noye on the slip road of the M25 at Swanley in 1996. Right, Kenneth Noye pictured in 2000.

Noye fled to Spain for two years before being brought back and jailed in 2000.

Former Kent detective superintendant Nick Biddiss dealt with Noye as part of that investigation.

He told us: "My own personal view



is that some people should never come out and he is perhaps one of them."

He added: "But the system is as it is now. I don't necessarily agree with it but we have to deal with the system we have - to accept the way things pan out in the end."

So just who is Kenneth Noye?

He was born in Bexleyheath and was in trouble pretty soon. His mother had a dog racing track and his father ran a post office.

A fall while scrumping at the age of three from a nearby apple tree gave him his distinct nose shape. Stealing cash from a Woolworth till at five and being called a bully while at Bexleyheath Secondary Modern School followed. In the playground he sold stolen bicycles and became a fence for other items of swag - in other words knowingly bought stolen gear, often changed its appearance, and sold it on with the buyer not being aware of its origin.. A year in Borstal was his reward for that.

It was here he met his future wife, legal secretary Brenda Tremain and also more than a few criminal contacts. Joining the Freemansons helped get his face out there.

Noye bought a 20-acre site in School Lane, West Kingsdown, but a planning row slowed development until a mystery electrical fire destroyed the existing building paving the way to redevelopment and a mansion home.

He ran a haulage company and became a bullion dealer by the time, in 1983, when thieves took 6,800 gold bars from the Brink's Matt warehouse. Noye was suspected of handling and undercover police officer John Fordham was 'camped' in his grounds, only to be killed by Noye who stumbled into him after being aware of someone on his property. He stabbed him in 1985. Noye was tried and cleared of murder when he claimed the 11 wounds were in self-defence.

However, during that investigation, 11 gold bars were found and Noye was jailed for 14 years on a handling charge and released in 1994.

Then in 1996, Danielle Cable, still in hiding today, apparently cut up Noye on an M25 slip-road near Swanley.

At the red lights on the roundabout, Noye confronted her and boyfriend Stephen Cameron. In a scuffle, Mr Cameron gained an upper hand, prompting Noye to retrieve a knife from his car and stab the young electrician in the chest twice. He died in his girlfriend's arms.

Fearing he would never get a fair trial, Noye fled to Spain and was later extradited. He was convicted in 2000 after Ms Cable gave evidence. She is now in witness protection.

But there are still a myriad of mysteries. Noye's Spanish home near Barbate on the quieter Atlantic coast is now pretty run down, but someone is cutting the grass.

Some £10 million in Brink's-Matt gold is still missing.

Wensley Clarkson is a journalist, author and expert on Noye, and he believes he has received death threats.

Writing in the Daily Mail, he said: "Am I scared? Well, as the author of the only book about Noye, I have spoken to many of his associates and know that he is capable of anything. I know Noye's ability to intimidate and manipulate knows no boundaries."

Mr Clarkson said it was widely believed there will be repercussions when Noye is released.

He wrote that one member of the criminal community in Kent told him "he was expecting a bloodbath if Noye was released. He believes that a number of underworld figures who Noye thinks co-operated with police when they successfully tracked him to Spain after the Cameron murder are now living in fear of brutal retribution".

As he closes in on his 70s, the story of Kenneth Noye still, it seems, have chapters left to tell.

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London theatre donates its entire auditorium to school

Remarkable structure is saved thanks to composers' link to original architect

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A SCHOOL in Maidstone is celebrating after it was donated an entire auditorium by a famous London theatre under-going a major refurbishment.

The Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn announced last year that it was seeking a new home for the innovative structure which is designed to be dismantled and reassembled as a complete, working, 240-seat auditorium.

And now Valley Park School has emerged as the lucky recipient and will erect the pop-up venue in its old gymnasium.

Designed by renowned architect Tim Foster back in 1979, it was due to be dumped as the London venue underwent its transformation.

Explained Mr Foster: "It seemed to me a terrible waste to allow it to go in the skip, so I contacted the Tricycle and asked them if I could find a new home for it, which they agreed to."

He then agreed he would have the final say on just where the remarakble structure would end up after receiving a host of applications. And it was thanks to a Kent link to one of the nation's leading composers which swung it for the academy which is also a specialist arts college.

The architect added: "In deciding they should have it, I was particularly influenced by the support of Anthony Drewe of [British composing duo] Stiles and Drewe, who are patrons of the performing arts at the school and reminded me of their first production of Just So at the Tricycle in 1990, which I remember well."

Mr Drewe grew up in Maidstone before going on to pen a number of successful musicals including the likes of re-workings of classics such as Mary Poppins and Wind in the Willows.

The move will save the school a fortune. It is already well known for its support of theatrical and musical production and the delivery of the theatre strucutre has already been made.

Mr Foster said: "The school has acquired a world-class theatre at a fraction of the cost of a new building.

"The Tricycle was the first theatre I designed as a young architect, and I remained closely associated with the building for over 35 years, rebuilding the theatre after the disastrous 1987 fire and then adding the award-winning cinema and rehearsal room extension in 1998.

"I was also a member of the board for 12 years. I was determined that the current management should not simply throw it in a skip and I am grateful to them for allowing me to remove it and find it a new home."

The gifted architect said the auditorium was designed to last and the latest move will ensure it does.

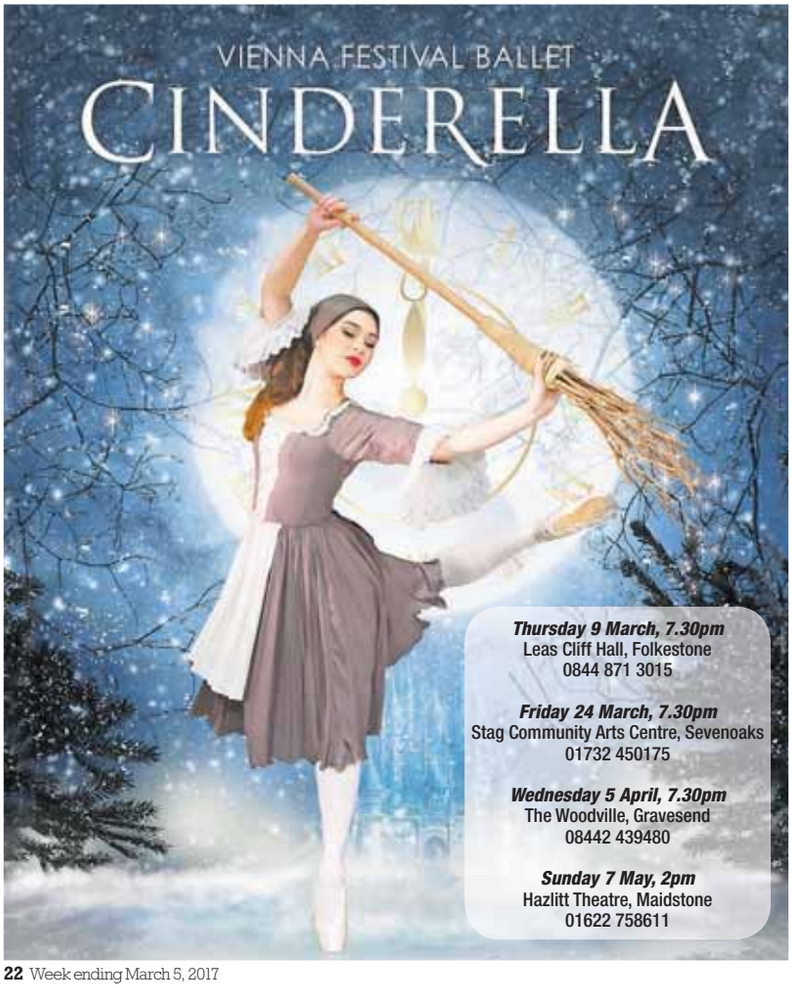
He said: "Some may say that after 36 years it has had a good run for its money and it is time for a change. I however feel it embodies timeless theatrical principles that are as valid today as they were when it was built.

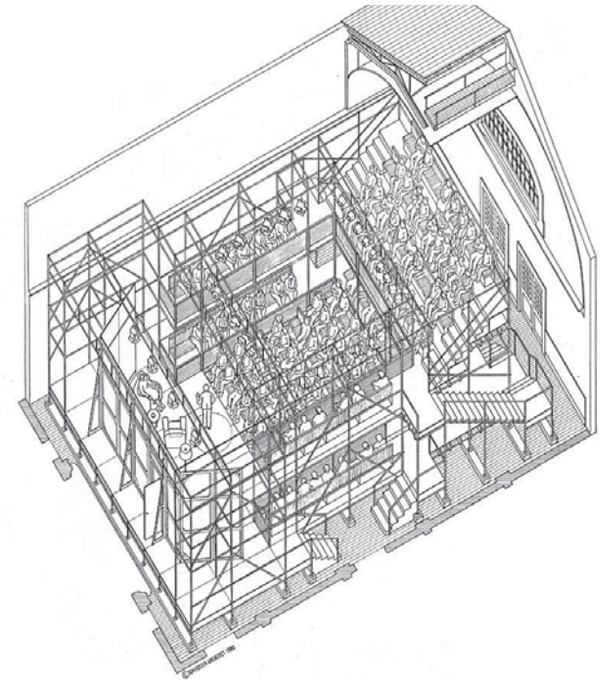
"Being built from a standard scaffold system it was low cost and unpretentious but its form was derived from the 18th century Georgian Theatre in Richmond Yorkshire, which gave it a theatrical power, which has been emulated worldwide.

"Theatres with side galleries which embrace the stage and connect the audience to the actor are now the norm but in 1980 they were relatively novel, with the likes of The Young Vic and The Cottesloe leading the way. Despite its small size the theatre is capable of housing both the epic and the intimate."

Mr Foster has been responsible for many theatre projects carried out by his practice including the Salisbury Playhouse Redevelopment, the Trafalgar Studios, the Broadway Theatre in Barking, the redevelopment of the Theatre Royal Norwich, the restoration of the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham and the St James Theatre in London.

VISION: The original plan for the auditorium in Kilburn





CLEVER: Left, audiences at the Tricycle in London before its move

He has also designed theatres for schools and universities, which include those at Dulwich College, The American School in London, Cheltenham Ladies' College, Bedford School and Royal Holloway University.

He said: "We now live in an age of 'pop up' theatre and an auditorium which can be loaded on the back of a lorry and moved to a new location is an idea that has found its time. It is not a new idea however – just as Burbage moved the Globe from Shoreditch to Southwark so we are moving the Tricycle from Kilburn to Kent."

The head at the school could not be happier to be chosen among others that showed keen interest.

Vic Ashdown explained: "We are delighted that Tim Foster has chosen Valley Park School to be the new home for the Tricycle theatre.

"It also further cements the links with our patrons George Stiles and Anthony Drewe as it was the first London venue for their prize winning musical Just So. The new theatre will also enhance the outstanding work that happens within the performing arts department here at our school, providing yet more unforgettable experiences for our students and becoming a valuable creative resource for our local community."

Iain Mackintosh, theatre consultant and historian, said: "In 1979, when planning our 'unworthy scaffold', Tim and I sent Tricycle founder Ken Chubb off to Richmond in Yorkshire to the 1788 Georgian Playhouse.

"This is a unique survivor from the end of the 18th century. In 1963 the Prospect Theatre Company, which I had co-founded, had restaged the first play there for over a century; the Provok'd Wife, with a cast led by Eileen Atkins that transferred to the Vaudeville. Ken said he sat in the auditorium alone for four hours. He returned and told us to go ahead.

"There were once over 200 such playhouses the length and breadth of England at the end of the 18th century. They were scaled to work for comedy and for tragedy but were also most flexible. Players wheeled wheelbarrows from the gallery to the stage.

"The pit was floored over for parties. But we kept stum about the Tricycle's antecedents knowing that the form of the Tricycle had to work for the 1980s, not as an antiquarian reconstruction, albeit in steel scaffolding which is the modern equivalent of Burbage's oak timbers, but as a place for audiences to relish intimacy with the actors of today and to be stimulated by contemporary playwrights at home in such an intimate space."

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College's return from the dead

Folkestone and Dover's further education offering appeared set for collapse just a few years ago, now under new management with East Kent College they have received top marks from Ofsted inspectors

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

FOUR years ago, the further education colleges in Folkestone and Dover faced an uncertain future. Today, they form part of one of the county's most remarkable educational achievements.

As part of the crumbling, misjudged K College empire, they were being drowned amid a tsunami of debt created by the creation just four years earlier of the county's single biggest college.

Both sites were earmarked as part of a fire-sale of land and local campaigners sprang into life in a bid to remind the powers-that-be of the vital need for a vocational, post-school outlet in the coastal areas.

K College had, ironically, been formed in 2010 as a direct result of major concerns about both Dover and Folkestone. Along with Ashford, they formed what was once South Kent College. But management and financial issues led to a damning Ofsted and the recommendation it be taken over.

Enter the Tonbridge-headquartered West Kent College. Rebranding the new entity as K College it was supposed to represent the future of further education in the county.

Instead, it ran up millions in debt and the government had to come to the rescue - insisting its constituent parts be hived off to other education providers.

Hadlow College took over Ashford, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells sites (with the latter too taking on their old name), and East Kent College - previously Thanet College - gobbling up Folkestone and Dover.

Both Hadlow and East Kent have managed their way to success with strong business strategy and the relentless desire to deliver to the people of Kent what their local communities both need and demand.

The result has been a tranformation in their fortunes - and for Dover and Folkestone, finally, a moment in the sun.

An Ofsted report issued this week, following an inspection in January, gave East Kent College an overall 'good' rating. Remarakbly, five of the nine categories were ranked 'outstanding'.

It only missed out on an overall outstanding rating due to teaching, learning and assessment and outcome for learners categories; both graded 'good'. To achieve the fabled top score by the independent government inspectors, they need to be outstanding too.

FOCUS: Principal Graham Razey has led the quite remarkable transformation in recent years

According to the report: "When the college acquired the Dover and Folkestone sites from another provider in 2014, outcomes were well below national rates in most areas, the campuses were poorly maintained and uninviting, staff morale was low and engagement with employers and communities was very limited.

"Leaders and managers have made outstanding progress in significantly improving outcomes for students at the two 'new' campuses while maintaining standards at the Broadstairs site. At the same time, they have been exceptionally successful in rejuvenating buildings and learning resources, enhancing the reputation of the college and the levels of community engagement at the Dover and Folkestone campuses.

"The principal and senior leaders set themselves exceptionally high standards and expectations and communicate these very well to staff, who understand and share them."

East Kent College's principal, Graham Razey, said: "This inspection has highlighted just how far the college has come since 2013. Our Dover and Folkestone campuses had previously been neglected as part of K College, and were considered inadequate. The fact they're now thought of as 'outstanding' for five of the nine areas inspected by Ofsted, and good for the other four, is testament to just how hard all of our staff have worked and I'm really proud of the grading which reflects that."

Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, added: "We're delighted to see the investment in their Dover campus and at Discovery Park in Sandwich, and have been impressed with the commitment we've seen from the management, staff and students."

David Monk, leader of Shepway Distric Council added: "A few years ago we helped avert the threat of closure of Folkestone's further education campus for our local students, so I am obviously delighted that Ofsted recognises the great improvement in standards achieved by East Kent College.

"I have great faith in the management of Graham Razey and his staff team whose achievements are recognised by the Ofsted report and The Radnor Park Tea Room stands as a testament to what their students can achieve in partnership with us."

East Kent College also recently took over the day-to-day running of cash-strapped Canterbury College. Plans to formally merge the two are now being progressed.

Canterbury College was not included as part of the Ofsted report.

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And since his untimely death in 2009, the appetite for the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, has never slowed.

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We've teamed up with the promoters of Jackson Live in Concert, starring Ben and his incredible live band and dancers, which moonwalks onto the stage at The Woodville in Gravesend on Sunday, March 12 at 7.30pm, to give away a pair of ticket to five lucky readers.

Now in its eighth year of touring, this concert show sees long-time fan and hugely talented Ben recreate the Michael Jackson experience with his stunning rendition of all his favourite songs.

Musical legend Michael Jackson will always be remembered as one of the most influential artists of all time. With a career spanning nearly five decades, he remained at the forefront of music and will continue to inspire countless people across the world for generations to come.

Ben's portrayal of Jackson perfectly captures the King of Pop at the height of his powers with his memorising, energetic and dynamic performance. Ben's charisma and professionalism really shines through as he sings live throughout the show and performs full signature Michael Jackson dance routines.

Ben is joined on the stage by his incredible band and dancers who work their way through all the hits. He's got the look, the moonwalk and the voice.

His renditions of Thriller, Beat it and Billie Jean are truly sensational.

Jackson Live in Concert features all-live vocals, superb musicians and dancers, fabulous costumes, and of course all the signature dance moves associated so fondly with the undisputed King of Pop. Packed with authentic touches and flair, Jackson Live in Concert authentically captures the essence and magic of Michael Jackson live on stage.

To be in with a chance of winning one of five pairs of tickets, just answer the following simple question:

Q. How many years has Jackson Live in Concert been touring the UK?

a. Five
b. Eight
c. Two

DAZZLING: Ben and his band have created a mesmorising evening recreating Michael Jackson's finest moments

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To enter text KENT followed by JACKSON and your answer then your first name, surname and email address to 63333, eg KENTJACKSON C JOHN SMITH johnsmith@email.com. Texts cost 50p plus standard network rates. Winners will be selected from all correct entries. The promoter's decision is final. Usual terms and conditions apply. Entries received after the closing date of March 9, 2017 will not be counted, but you may still be charged. Alternatively, enter by post to KENTJACKSON Competition, Archant KOS Media, Kent House, Station Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PP, including your name, address, postcode and contact telephone number.

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BIG BREAK: Over the past year, Chris Ramsey has taken over the jungle, Virtually Famous, and had his own show on Comedy Central

I'm A Celeb's Chris Ramsey swaps TV for stand-up gigs

The comedy presenter tells KoS about his new tour and how his career began

CHRIS RAMSEY is certainly 'on the up' in his career. He's the presenter of comedy show Virtually Famous, and last year presented I'm A Celeb's Extra Camp, he's even just finished his own eight-week show on Comedy Central. And now, he's touring the UK with his stand up gig, Is That... Chris Ramsey? which he's bringing to Canterbury.

When we speak, the comedian relays that he's been to Kent "loads of times" but does laugh that the only real association he has with the county is the Dartford Crossing.

He says: "I love going to places I've never been to before, but I've played Canterbury a few times now, though I never really get a chance to go out. But I genuinely didn't realise how big Kent is - it's massive.

"When I think about Kent, I always think of the Dartford Crossing which isn't great because the crossing is pretty grim."

The comedian has been on the scene for around 10 years now, though his bigger TV appearances have only been in recent years. But if it wasn't for one night at university, Mr Ramsey's career may never have come to be.

He explains: "My best mate and support act Carl told me he was going to an open mic night, which I thought meant he was going to be singing - which in itself could have been comedy gold - but when I found out it was for comedy I decided to go along.

"After watching him, I got up there myself and found a love for stand up. I didn't realise that you could do it as a hobby. I saw those big stars like Billy Connolly in theatres but I didn't know how they got to that point in their careers.

"But after that night I genuinely loved it and I've been doing it ever since."

With his latest tour, Mr Ramsey says he's thrown away the theme, and loosened up the show.

"Usually my shows have a theme they stick to but this one is just a lot looser. I come out and have a chat with the crowd, then just tell them general life stories - about my son, my wife, my job, fears, inadequacies.

"I even tell them the full story of that time I got arrested in a London hotel room. It was a case of mistaken identity, but it was terrifying!"

Though the TV presenter has stories he routinely tells for each tour stop, his show changes from night to night.

"It changes because nobody wants to hear the same thing/ story over - it's not like with music where you're happy to hear the same song repeated. Plus hilarious things will happen mid-tour which I want to talk about on stage," he informs.

The I'm A Celeb Extra Camp presenter, who says he wouldn't go on the show "in a million years", sounds extremely happy with how his career is panning out.

He comments: "I'm really happy with everything, and with Virtually Famous. I'm really hoping it gets commissioned again but it's just a case of waiting to see.

"You know people love the show, when even your friends who aren't in the industry or in comedy text you to tell you they're watching it and they love it."

Is That... Chris Ramsey? is coming to Canterbury's Gulbenkian on March 15, for tickets and information visit thegulbenkian.co.uk.

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EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425341**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399**

ANETTA, black cuddly lady seeks man who knows what a woman needs. I'm very friendly and have time for you. Please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425933**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375**

LADY, 70, 5ft6, divorced, blonde hair, brown eyes, friendly, lives in the Kent area, likes walking, holidays, WLTM somebody for friendship in the local area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426193**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673**

AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to us both. Call now. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425327**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715**

CARLY, 34yrs, attractive and discreet military wife seeks no strings fun with respectable gent. **Tel: 0906 515 3038 Box 424419**

MERRY widow seeks lovely lonely gent for companionship. Please call, we can have a chat and see how we get on. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425927**

ATTRACTIVE well educated lady, mid 30's, solvent, professional, seeks discreet broad minded gent. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 425891**

LIVELY 53-year-old female, young in mind, wants discreet fun, loves gardening, dancing music etc and more. **Text only. Mailbox: 5763284**

OCTAVIA, black seductress, 53yrs, waiting to meet you. Pls text me today. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4090520**

JANE, attractive and young looking 60 something lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for occasional meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425931**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 422365**

GILLY, slim petite lady, affectionate and loving, solvent with own home, hoping to meet gent, must be kind, looks unimportant. ACA/text answered. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425929**

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424491**

CORRINE, genuine advertiser seeking adult fun, no time wasters pls. I will respond to all msgs. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4035196**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 425979**

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WANTED gent 50-76 for cosy nights in, good times, call or text me, you won't be sorry. I'm attractive and have lots to offer. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425339**

LINDA, 48yrs attractive brunette seeks gent for laughter, wining dining, Age unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425337**

LOVING lady, romantic and tactile seeks like-minded gent for special times, lets make each other feel special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425325**

ATTRACTIVE Caribbean lady 59yrs, very jolly and fun seeking gent any age who must love good times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425323**

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady, young looking 60s, genuine and kind, seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424671**

HELEN, mid 50s naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424493**

SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady, I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424781**

PHILIPPA, feminine open minded lady seeking adult fun, genuine responses only pls, no time-wasters. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4030610**

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTM interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424675**

SUE, genuine lady, own home, loves to spoil a man, give me a call or text. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424673**

BRUNETTE lady, 70, slim, sophisticated, size 10, kind of like Helen Mirren as a brunette, lives near Tunbridge Wells, WLTM a genuine, hopefully family oriented gentleman, for genuine friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424877**

SARAH, mature feminine lady, kind caring but still has a sensual side, hoping to meet like minded, confident, non smoking gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424777**

50YRS, old attractive lady. Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422469**

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told)! Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424783**

MARY, professional mature lady, loves life, very sociable and fun, seeks gent for good conversation and happy times. All calls and texts answered. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424775**

NAUGHTY curvy 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter, WLTM chap 30+. If you are married even better. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424543**

JULIE, 53yrs, tall slim dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving. New to the area so WLTM men friends for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424497**

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. ACA or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424495**

SUE, outgoing lady, enjoys life, likes meals, holidays, WLTM mature gentleman to share interests and spend quality time together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424669**

CLARE, 41, attractive, lovely eyes, nice figure, smoker, likes beach walks, socialising, occasional gigs, WLTM a nice gent, any age over 40, for wining and dining, to be my soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424595**

CHRIS, 49yrs honest gent seeks lady 45-55 for socialising, friendship, maybe leading to romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425345**

DENTAL practitioner, 44, 6ft, slim, athletic build, thick dark hair, blue eyes, loves sports, seeks slim feminine sporty lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425087**

EDWARD, 77, looking for a companion South East area of Kent, for holidays, days out, social events, and lots more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423039**

TALL, lively old boy, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks tactile lady for company and jolly jaunts. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425021**

MALE, 58, wishes to meet attractive female, into music, live bands, cinema and some sports, for nights out socialising and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424979**

HI I'm Darren, down to earth guy, lives in Kent, likes Marbaia, looking for someone special to meet and have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424951**

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

NICK, mature male, builder, tattoos, plenty of money, looking for discreet meets, no stings in the Kent area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424787**

MALE 50 seeks mature, home loving lady, 60 plus who enjoys cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424683**

PETER, sincere solvent gent 70s seeks lady to wine dine, foreign travel, all expenses paid. I would love a traveling companion. Genuine advertiser. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425335**

MALCOLM, 60 something gent, own hair and teeth, GSOH, genuine and Kind WLTM sincere lady to wine and dine. Please call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425335**

PROFESSIONAL gent, 44yrs, tall, attractive and genuine. Seeks genuine feminine lady for genuine romance. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425333**

PIERS, 56yrs, romantic gent WLTM lady to wine, dine, spoil. I'm kind, caring, generous pls call me. Single mums welcome. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425331**

GENUINE gentleman, family minded, kind, generous seeks lady 55-75 for wining, dining and wine and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425329**

NICE looking 55 year old male WLTM sincere lady, any age, for friendship, outings, holidays abroad etc. Love the sun. **Text only. Mailbox: 4922399**

59YR old male, likes country walks, pub lunches, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424685**

CARING 55yr old male, widower, 6ft 3ins, WLTM lady, 40-55 for fun and laughter, maybe happy ever after. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424677**

COLIN, 56, 6ft, medium build, clean and tidy with a tidy beard, I'm after some TLC with no strings adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422359**

ANDY, tall attractive male, looking for a naughty female, for fun with no strings attached. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424295**

RETIRED, intelligent, Broadstairs widower, GSOH, medium height and build, seeks slim lady for friendship and companionship initially. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424697**

MARTIN trustworthy, warm hearted, loving, reliable male, 45, 6ft, medium build, young at heart, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424681**

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RICHARD, 64, n/s, from Kent, medium build, clean shaven, likes classic cars, days out, meals out, boot fares, most things, would like to meet a lady for company and to share each others interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424207**

MALE, 54, looking for discreet lady, 60-70, for adult fun and a special friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421085**

MALE, 52, quiet nature, likes coastal walks, cinema, reading, WLTM lady for friendship and maybe romance. East Kent area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424211**

LIVELY old boy, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 yo. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621**

Men Seeking

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CARING sociable, GS0H, slim, attractive, married gent, 67, feels discarded and lonely, seeks likewise lady 60+ for trips out, dining etc. **Text only. Mailbox: 5082918**

SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163**

CALLING all ladies 40+ who would like to be wined, dined and romanced by attractive gent, 54 years please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425943**

MALE, 70s, would like to meet slim lady 60 plus. **Text only. Mailbox: 4505135**

LOCAL man, seeks lady for friendship possibly more, for romantic dates and good times together, hope to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426195**

HANDSOME male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587**

MALE, 55, looking for no strings attached friendship, with a lady 60-70, any status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426133**

MALE, 6ft, brown hair and blue eyes, warm and understanding, likes dining out and cosy nights in, lots of fun, friendship and holidays. Looking for a lady over 48. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426057**

PROFESSIONAL gentleman, 64, widowed, own house, loves holidays abroad, reading, eating out, eating in and shows, WLTM a lady of similar age to share interests and happy times together hopefully leading to lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425787**

HELLO, mature gentleman looking for a lady who is caring, likes holidays, karaoke, meals out, country walks and cinema. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425401**

GUY, 50, 6ft tall, calm and kind, good company, seeking lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425369**

BARRY, 50, 6ft 4ins, well built, divorced gent, looking to date calm and kind lovely lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421195**

MARK 48, slim, fit, GSOH, looking for loyal partner for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424679**

JOHN, mid sixties widower, cultured and interesting, solvent with own home. WLTM lady 55+ for genuine companionship. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425939**

GENUINE single gent, 55yrs, seeks friendship hopefully leading to true love with lady 35-55, looks unimportant. Please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425937**

SOLVENT gentleman, young 70s, loves life seeking a lady of any age to spoil and pamper, take on holidays, wine and dine. Genuine advertiser. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425935**

Gay Seeking

Join our Gay online service ***FREE*** visit: ***localgaydate.co.uk***

GAY guy, friendly with a GSOH, likes sport and art, WLTM similar guy for a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425563**

MALE, 40s, seeking gym buddy to attend DW gym in the early evenings, similar age. Margate. **Text only. Mailbox: 5779191**

SIMON, 29yrs, gay curious, seeking older gent for new experiences, must be discreet as I live at home. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4196422**

Friends

FEMALE seeking genuine straight female for daytrips, out to meet socially for lunch/coffee. **Text only to Mailbox No:4748240**

SEEKING ladies for good company, socialising and a bit of fun, BBW local to Kent, get in touch and lets start having fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413623**

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The Crucible director says play resonates with society today

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

ONE of the twentieth century's landmark plays, Arthur Miller's The Crucible stands as both a historical record and a political parable for our times, and it's making its way to Dartford this March.

Starring Charlie Condou (Coronation Street), as the witch-hunter, Reverend Hale, this production takes a Brechtian look at this violent story of frail reason in the face of hysteria.

Speaking to the play's director, Douglas Rintoul, he tells KoS that he believes The Crucible is one of the "greatest stories ever told".

He said: "It's precise, human, domestic, deeply moving, political and more importantly an emotional rollercoaster of a ride - it's one of the greatest stories ever told."

But what first drew the director to the play, was the fact that it was written by Arthur Miller.

Mr Rintoul explains: "I'm a big fan of Arthur Miller's plays. Who isn't? I've always known they were great, but it wasn't until two years ago, that I finally had the opportunity to direct one for myself. I directed All My Sons.

"It was one of the most satisfying projects of my career to date."

Though the play is based in the 17th century, it resonates with today's politics.

"The Crucible is terrifying in what it portrays on stage and the world around us," states Mr Rintoul. "Unnervingly The Crucible is as relevant today as it was when it was first written in the 1950s if not more so. Somehow this text operates in three time frames. It explores the events of the late 17th century whilst at the same time excavating the political events in the US in the 1950s but now it also illuminates our own time."

Explaining further, he says: "It's easy to look around today and see the analogies that one can make between Salem, America in the 1950s and our contemporary world. We live in a world of post-truth, the Crucible is a world of post-truth. We live in a world of scapegoating the vulnerable and the innocent for control and power."

The play is coming to Dartford's Orchard Theatre from March 14 to 18.

For tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk

COMPLEX: The play deals with the complexities of morals, and is based in 17th century Salem

See water in a new light

DANCE show Scattered is visiting Canterbury's Gulbenkian on March 18.

The production uses dance and imagery to explore our relationship with water.

Visit thegulbenkian.co.uk

Learn to be an explorer

THE POWELL-COTTON MUSEUM at Quex Park, Birchington is searching for new explorers to follow in the footsteps of Percy Powell-Cotton on March 11 and 12.

Children aged seven and over, accompanied by an adult, are welcome.

For tickets visit powell-cotton-shop.co.uk

The Three Half Pints

CBEEBIES entertainers The Three Half Pints are visiting Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre on June 1 and Maidstone's Hazlitt Theatre on July 2.

Visit marlowetheatre.co.uk or parkwoodtheatres.co.uk

Fun fairytale family day

DARTFORD'S ORCHARD THEATRE are holding a day of fun-filled, family activities on March 19.

Families will be given the opportunity to come and join in a fairytale themed day, complete with a fancy dress parade.

For tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk

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KENT LIFE HERITAGE FARM PARK'S Bugs and Grubs Weekend returns on March 11 and 12 with a packed programme of bug-themed activities.

Visit kentlife.org.uk for tickets.

Remade Shirley returns

A SHIRLEY VALENTINE remake is coming to Bromley's Churchill Theatre from March 2 - 4, Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre from May 16 - 20, and Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall from July 3 - 8.

Visit churchilltheatre.co.uk, marlowetheatre.com or assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

Free lunchtime concerts

THE CURTAIN comes down on the spring series of lunchtime concerts at the University of Kent in Canterbury on March 29 with a trio of musicians exploring tango music.

The concerts are free entry.

Ramsgate Said Fred

RIGHT SAID FRED are brining their ninth album Exactly! on tour to Ramsgate's Music Hall on May 22.

The duo are celebratingmaking music for over 25-years since their massive 1991 hit I'm Too Sexy shot them to fame.

For tickets visit ramsgatemusichall.com

'First time' Canterbury gig for Sir Tom Jones

By Emily King
emily.king@archant.co.uk

LEGENDARY singer Sir Tom Jones will be performing for the first time ever in Canterbury this summer, and tickets went on sale on Friday.

To date he has achieved more than 100 million record sales, including hits such as It's Not Unusual, Kiss, Delilah and What's New Pussycat. He has managed to sustain his popularity as a live performer and recording artist for five decades.

A popular choice not just on the stage but on TV, Sir Tom is currently a coach on ITV's The Voice, and has appeared in films, including Mars Attacks.

With numerous tours across the world his career was recognised in 2006 through his knighthood from the Queen, and music awards, including BRIT Awards for Best Male and Outstanding Contribution to Music.

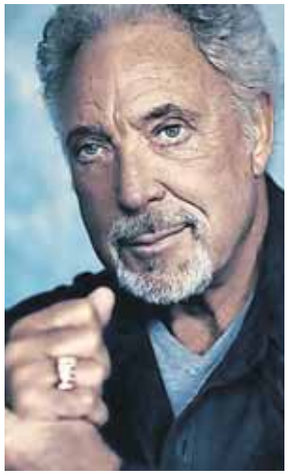
The concert at the Spitfire Ground, St. Lawrence, Canterbury will feature a collection of his most popular hits across the decades, including his latest albums.

Speaking of the concert, Sir Tom said: "I am really looking forward to coming to the lovely cathedral city of Canterbury. I love doing outdoor shows and being able to perform at the Spitfire Ground is fantastic. It promises to be a great night so I hope everyone comes out to enjoy this show in this beautiful venue."

Jamie Clifford, CEO of Kent County Cricket Club said: "We love bringing music to Canterbury and look forward to welcoming the legendary voice and stage presence of Sir Tom Jones to Kent on Saturday 8 July. He is a renowned live performer and adds to our fantastic summer of concerts."

Liz Doogan-Hobbs MBE, CEO of LHG Live, said: "We are delighted to be working with Tom Jones once again at the Canterbury concert."

For tickets to see Sir Tom Jones at The Spitfire Ground on July 8, visit ticketmaster.co.uk or lhgtickets.com.



LEGEND: The performer says he loves doing outdoor shows

SHOWBIZ: With former judges Jessie J and Danny Donoghue

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'I was obsessed with eating only raw foods'

Blogger Sam Murphy talks about how veganism was a way to control her diet and her anorexia...

IN a tug-of-war relationship with food and fitness for many years, blogger Sam Murphy is the first to admit her initial foray into veganism wasn't a healthy one.

The 24-year-old, who hails from New Zealand, had anorexia as a teenager, and initially, switching to veganism proved another means of controlling her eating and introducing new restrictions.

"I was raw vegan for a while, and I was so obsessed with eating only raw foods in their natural state," explains Murphy. "I can see how easy it is to slip into that, because essentially it's addictive, you become obsessed with it. It's a control thing.

"If you've got something in your life that you feel a bit out of control with, a lot of us will turn to food and control that. I know I do."

After moving to Melbourne, where she still lives and works in a vegan cafe, Murphy slowly began to change her habits and rebuild a healthier relationship with nourishing her body, reintroducing the full gamut of vegan-friendly foods (and actually cooking them), opening up about her experiences in her blog (sobeautifullyreal.com) and, eventually, shaking off her staunchly-held views of 'good' and 'bad' foods.

"Having spent so many years having a very strict food rule list, I still catch myself out having those preconceived ideas about what is good and bad," she admits. "It really restricts you creatively, but it also restricts your enjoyment for food. The challenge for me and for others is to break down barriers and just enjoy food as food, and obviously the important thing is keeping it within the realm of being dairy-free and cruelty-free.

HEALTHY: Sam Murphy is now healthy and has a new cook book

"I don't see any reason why you should have to label something good or bad; it should just be real food."

Her debut cookbook, Beautifully Real Food - a gorgeous, colourful collection of mouthwatering vegan dishes - is clearly the work of somebody who now celebrates the joy of food.

She's keen not to preach about veganism though, especially since, as a former meat-eater, she recalls finding the concept very alien.

"When I first heard of vegans, I thought it was the weirdest thing in the world. I was like, 'What the hell do those people eat? It's like eating grass!'" she says with a laugh.

"It's different. People are very set in their ways and I was too, and I suppose it's more about educating, just trying it out. I don't expect everyone in the world to go vegan, but if they could just try a meal that is vegan, possibly not knowing that it is vegan first, that would be ideal, so they go in with a very open mind.

"The more people we can get on board, the better," says Murphy. "I try not to push my views on people; I just welcome them in like 'Hey, I'll cook you some food and see if you like it!'"

Wedding has X Factor

A NEW PRODUCTION of The Wedding Singer, starring X Factor's Ray Quinn, and Emmerdale's Roxanne Pallett, will visit Dartford's Orchard Theatre from March 21-25, Bromley's Churchill Theatre from August 1-5, and Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall from 5-9 September.

For tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk, churchilltheatre.co.uk or assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

Pocahontas 400 march

A COMMEMORATIVE PARADE is being held to mark the 400th anniversary of Pocahontas' arrival and death in Gravesend.

The key event in the Pocahontas 400 calendar is a community parade on March 21.

It will begin at the St Andrew's Arts Centre at 1.30pm and will proceed up the High Street, down Jury Street and then down to the church to the Pocahontas statue.

Going Lulu for concerts

LULU will visit Margate's Winter Gardens on October 5, Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall on October 11, Bromley's Churchill Theatre on October 23, Dartford's Orchard Theatre on October 24, and Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre on November 6 on "biggest tour to date".

For tickets visit margatewintergardens.com, assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk, churchilltheatre.co.uk or orchardtheatre.co.uk

Dritfing through history

LAST YEAR was the finale for The Drifters after six decades of tours, shows, and fans. But from the band's end, comes their history, and a show titled Stand By Me, which is coming to Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall on March 24.

The history of the group that helped define Atlantic Records is told through anecdotes of former band members on screen.

For tickets visit assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

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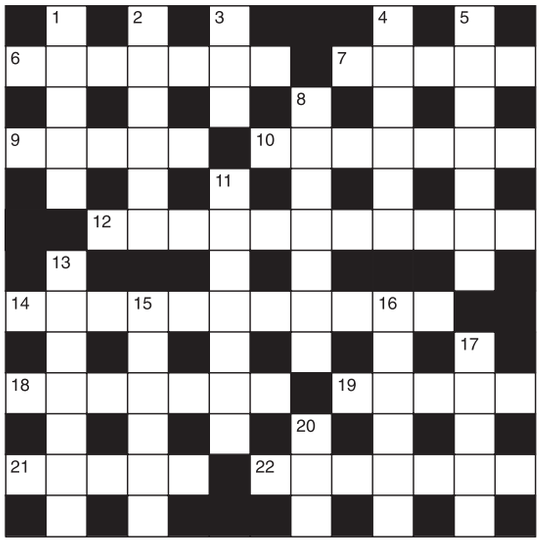
PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD



Quick

Across
6. Copy (7)
7. Form (5)
9. Bisect (5)
10. Droll (7)
12. Dejected (11)
14. Eternal (11)
18. Squirm (7)
19. Recover (5)
21. Concur (5)
22. Assemble (7)

Down
1. Postpone (5)
2. Talented (6)
3. Perform (3)
4. Piercing (6)
5. Orator (7)
8. Disprove (7)
11. Attack (7)
13. Mean (7)
15. Tough (6)
16. Almost (6)
17. Put (5)
20. Enemy (3)

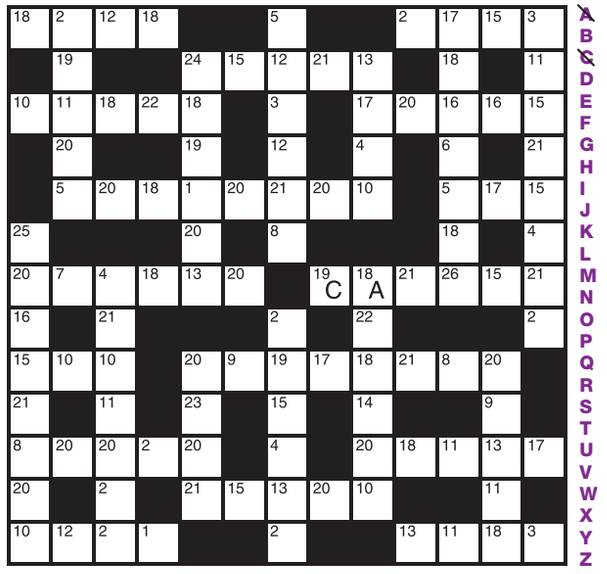
Cryptic

Across
6. Could beating it lead to deafness? (7)
7. Semi-nude, shy stool pigeon (5)
9. It's not harvested in the wood of course (5)
10. How wide is loaf with the end cut off? (7)
12. Firmly resolved to get things moving (3,2,6)
14. Repeatedly somersaulting (4,3,4)
18. It is put into sauce for meat in all seriousness (7)
19. Virginia in row involving couch (5)
21. Traded in timber, teak initially (5)
22. Interviewed 1,000 taken sick at timber works (7)

Down
1. Pester Henry (5)
2. I saved counsel (6)
3 and 20Dn. Special headgear for unusual haunts (6)
4. Again taking earlier meal (6)
5. Support for bridge or some card game (7)
8. 100 on edge over boy going red (7)
11. Tidying noble bearing (7)
13. Affirm Edward prevented (7)
15. Rebellion about electromotive force (6)
16. Puzzle in game (6)
17. Being virile, goes to the Netherlands in a month (5)
20. See 3 Down

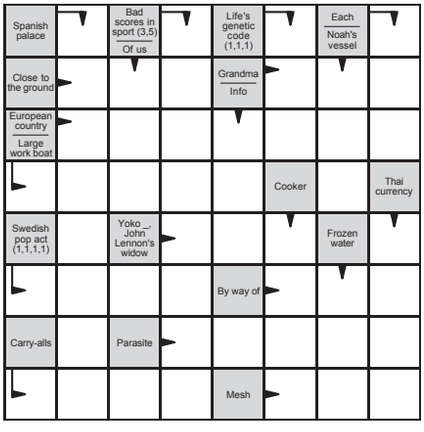
CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter.
For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 A	19 C	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Arrowword

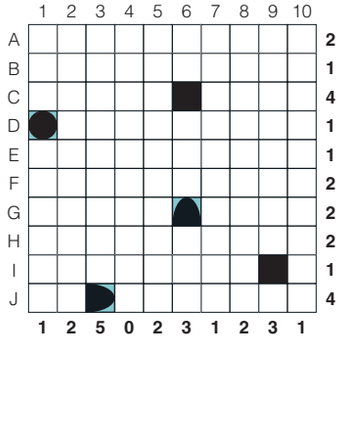


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

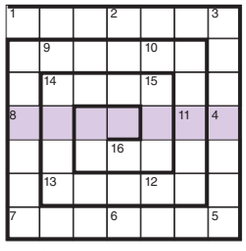
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET
1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

1. Knitting stitch
2. Young sheep
3. Curve
4. Foolish
5. Sound quality
6. Nefarious
7. Fibber
8. Genuine
9. Touch down
10. Beloved
11. Ready to eat
12. Revise
13. Small branch
14. Insect
15. Cab
16. Unit of length

Keyword clue: A boy's name

SUDOKU

Hard

	7						5	
5					1		2	
		6	8			4		
8	6			5				
		2		7		9		
				4			6	2
		3			9	8		
	4		5					1
	1				4		7	

Easy

	8		3		6		9	5
7					8	2		
		5		9	1	4		
	1				3		7	
9			2		5			4
	4		6				2	3
2		8	1			6		
			5	6				2
3	6		9		2		5	7

Solutions

Arrowword

Battleships

Double Crossword
Cryptic
Across: 6 Ear-drum; 7 Decoy; 9 Grain; 10 Breadth; 12 Set in motion; 14 Over and over; 18 Gravity; 19 Divan; 21 Death; 22 Saw-mill. Down: 1 Harry; 2 Advise; 3 Sun; 4 Repast; 5 Pontoon; 8 Crimson; 11 Dignity; 13 Averted; 15 Revolt; 16 Enigma; 17 Malay; 20 Hat.
Quick
Across: 6 Replica; 7 Shape; 9 Halve; 10 Comical; 12 Crestfallen; 14 Everlasting; 18 Wriggle; 19 Rally; 21 Agree; 22 Collect. Down: 1 Delay; 2 Clever; 3 Act; 4 Shrill; 5 Speaker; 8 Confute; 11 Assault; 13 Average; 15 Rugged; 16 Nearly; 17 Place; 20 Foe.
Codeword
1=K, 2=S, 3=P, 4=U, 5=W, 6=F, 7=Q, 8=G, 9=X, 10=D, 11=R, 12=I, 13=T, 14=Z, 15=O, 16=L, 17=H, 18=A, 19=C, 20=E, 21=N, 22=M, 23=V, 24=J, 25=B, 26=Y
Word Spiral
1 Purl; 2 Lamb; 3 Bend; 4 Daft; 5 Tone; 6 Evil; 7 Liar; 8 Real; 9 Land; 10 Dear; 11 Ripe; 12 Edit; 13 Twig; 14 Gnat; 15 Taxi; 16 Inch.
Keyword: Richard

Sudoku - Easy

4	8	1	3	2	6	7	9	5
7	9	3	4	5	8	2	6	1
6	2	5	7	9	1	4	3	8
5	1	2	8	4	3	9	7	6
9	3	6	2	7	5	8	1	4
8	4	7	6	1	9	5	2	3
2	5	8	1	3	7	6	4	9
1	7	9	5	6	4	3	8	2
3	6	4	9	8	2	1	5	7

Sudoku - Hard

9	7	1	4	2	3	6	5	8
5	8	4	7	6	1	3	2	9
3	2	6	8	9	5	4	1	7
8	6	7	9	5	2	1	3	4
4	3	2	1	7	6	9	8	5
1	9	5	3	4	8	7	6	2
7	5	3	2	1	9	8	4	6
6	4	8	5	3	7	2	9	1
2	1	9	6	8	4	5	7	3

Prime seat at the TOP table

Named among the world's top food and drink destinations in 2016, Cape Town is blessed with a vibrant restaurant scene, spectacular scenery and countryside bursting with vineyards. **MATTHEW WILLIAMS** visits a creative melting pot

The theory is that if you fall asleep on a night flight somewhere over Europe, when you arrive in Cape Town, South Africa, the traveller is as fresh as a daisy – such is the minuscule time difference.

It's the area's booming epicurean experience that's the pull for this foodie – that and British Airways' new direct flights from Gatwick.

From sprawling vineyards and fruit farms in the countryside to the city being named number one in a 2016 Conde Nast Traveller poll to find the best food destination in the world, this is a metropolis with plenty to boast of on its table.

I enjoy my very first taste of a South African delicacy – marine mollusc. The alluringly-named abalone is far tastier than it might sound and we enjoy our dishes beneath the skeleton of a Southern Right Whale at the Great White House restaurant in Kleinbaai, with a selection of local "cool climate" wines from Lomond Wine Estate.

Later, a tour of the vibrant former township Bo-Kaap (known as the Malay Quarter). In an unassuming two-storey, violet-painted property, we meet the wonderfully acerbic Faldela Tolker for her Cooking with Love class. I'm renamed Surfer Boy and put on curry duty, while the rest of the group tussle with samosas and roti flatbreads. It's a colourful way to enjoy lunch and delve into the melting-pot of Cape Malay cuisine.

■ British Airways flies twice a week between Gatwick and Cape Town. Prices start from £535 return, including taxes and charges for travel in World Traveller. ba.com/capetown or 03444930787. Tourism: southafrica.net

THE VIEW OVER THE CITY FROM THE TOP OF TABLE MOUNTAIN

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Still hunting for bloody justice

A YEAR ago, KoS [21.02.16] highlighted the call for justice for those victims of blood contamination; the demand for a suitable level of compensation, a full inquiry into the scandal and the authorities acknowledge what they did.

Since when, precious little.

A substantial body of crossbench MPs continue their call for a Hillsborough style forensic examination of the relevant documents in an attempt to obtain both truth and justice.

Mindful of the depth and extent of this scandal, officials have already shredded tons of documents and ministerial papers

The persistent resistance to an inquiry by Whitehall and the self styled sick boys in the Department of Health, suggests that in dark recesses, there remains the same wish to remain concealed and unexamined.

That the Department of Health continues to adhere to their belief in their own internal memo that the issue of contaminated blood is unimportant "because only haemophiliacs died", is truly sickening.

Steve Dymond,
Broadstairs

Liberals just can't stand losing

THE series of demonstrations aimed at President Trump [KoS, last week] clearly illustrate just how arrogant and undemocratic are those on the liberal and hard left.

They refuse to accept the results of democratic votes in both the UK and the USA, and continue to pretend that any results which do not accord with their prejudices are somehow invalid.

Those who voted for Brexit did not do so because they were uninformed or unintelligent, but because they had tired of rule by the bureaucratic dictatorship of Brussels, while the American electorate rejected Hillary Clinton, a product of the liberal elite, in favour of someone who put patriotism, and concern for the less well off of their countrymen, before the worship of globalisation.

Those who claim that, as President Trump did not win the popular vote, his victory is illegitimate, ignore the fact that the electoral college is the method by which all American presidents have been elected and that, just as in this country, those living in areas heavily weighted in favour of a particular candidate may not bother to vote, which they may well have done if they knew that the result was determined by a straight headcount.

These people seek to silence anyone who disagrees with them and, if successful, would destroy democracy throughout the Western world.

Colin Bullen,
Tonbridge

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Manston is never to fly again, Cllr Wells

NO, Chris Wells (leader of Thanet District Council{ [KoS, 19.02] the facts have not changed, you, like most politicians, jumped in with a load of rhetoric to get elected and, oh dear, reality hit and it's everyone else's fault.

You could have looked in the Thanet District Council archives for all the other reports that have been done.

How far did you have to dig to find someone who is not in the air industry to research the potential of Manston?

The problem is an airport on a peninsular has a very limited catchment area.

How many more reports does it need, and I hope more taxpayers money is not being wasted on the bleeding obvious. Every company and operator has either gone broke, or cut their losses and run.

Yes, they may have Far Eastern cargo operators who are interested, but Infratil, a New Zealand airport company bought it, invested £60 million, and four experienced CEOs tried to turn it around and the Infratil investors voted to dump it.

The air industry was so interested they could not rake up the price of a packet of fags to up the price at the sale.

If it was north of London with access to the M1 and M25 motorways, the customers would rip the fences down to get in.

Southend airport was bought by a road haulage operator who knew his business and had no interest in Manston - I know because I asked.

Having said all that, I would prefer an airport to the alternative, but that does not make it a financial reality.

Look at the map of the UK again and ask what happened to common sense.

When it comes to old sayings one should also consider "look before you leap"!

Bernard Clayson,
St Nicholas at Wade

Regulars...stand by your pens

FIRST my 'alt-fan club' tells me to stick to one subject, the next Phil Granger, mixing them again, tells me it's the wrong one!

However, I point out that as I've advised him on more than one occasion previously, the overpopulation problem, which is of course now real, only started happening from the 1970s onward.

Greenhouse gas emissions though started long before this, from the mid 19th century onward in the Western world primarily; which led the Nordic scientist Arrhenius in the 1890s to warn of the consequences. His work, 100 years later, was found to have been just one percent out even allowing for clean air acts and increasing population and so on.

Further, there were already rising concerns even in the 1950s and later, perhaps rather ironically given the situation in America right now, from a US Senate committee report in 1965.

As for China, recognising their pollution problem, they have just opened the world's largest solar farm in Qinghai and are helping to build one in Pakistan at Cholistan.

Further, India is building another in the south of that country, whilst a huge one is running in California.

In the UK there are community owned small solar ones in Leicestershire and at Sittingbourne for example, but the expansion of more such and other renwables here is sadly hampered by lack of full support from Mrs May's government who back corporate fracking and nuclear. Overall though whilst, sadly, fossil fuels are still all too prevalent, the rise of renewables is ongoing.

Pollution in the UK, is one of the worst in Europe, as evidenced by the recent appalling diesel emissions situation in London especially, and the the EU fine with action rightly demanded.

As for consumerism, this was begun by Western empires but modern such really started after the profiteering led change in the 1920s to cheap goods, be they of clothing, plastics and electrical items which last five minutes before needing replacement and in usually sweatshop conditions. This has exacerbated the climate problem further and merely changing to renewables production of energy will not be enough by far.

The need is also not just to cut C02 emissions but to revive an old Victorian ethic of making things and goods which last along with improving incomes and living/working conditions around the world. This must now take into account rising automation as well, a great expansion of adult education between jobs and instigating universal basic incomes, difficult though these may initially be.

Ray Duff,
Folkestone

We cannot afford to lose doctors

A SURVEY of EU doctors by the British Medical Association, has found that more than four in ten are considering leaving the UK in light of the EU referendum result.

With almost a third of GP practices in Kent unable to fill vacancies in the past year and hospitals experiencing one of the worst winters on record, we cannot afford to lose any more doctors.

If like me, you don't want to lose any of the valued and highly-skilled EU doctors that work in the UK, please contact your local MP and urge them to call for Theresa May to grant permanent residence to all medical professionals and NHS staff working in the UK.

Dr Selwyn D'Costa,
BMA SE regional deputy council

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent

Oast house at Lambershurst

by **Andrew Coleman**

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RDF Luxury Cars are a family business and have been in the hospitality industry for over 35 years in the Thanet area; we will take care of you from the start of your journey until the end, in comfort, style and luxury with little touches such as ribbons and drinks to make it all that much more special. If you would like to see the cars this can be arranged. All our drivers will ring ahead and be smartly dressed. Prices include ribbons, drinks & pick up from home to venue.

This luxury sports car really does have the wow factor with its silver body chrome lines, black soft top, this car is the one to be seen in.

Rolls Royce Phantom is one of the most desirable convertibles in the world. This fabulous car has a cream leather interior, with its beautiful metallic body work with a brush steel bonnet and contrasting blue soft top, this car is the ultimate in luxury.

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60s Sounds in Surrey

Thatcher's Hotel, Guildford

10 Mar, 14 Apr, 24 Jun & 22 Sept, 2017 - Quote: TG-KOS

ENJOY a fun-packed party break at this charming Tudor-style hotel near Guildford, close to The Hogs Back Brewery, and Polesden Lacey, an Edwardian country house and estate. Entertainment on 10 Mar features Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations) and Dave Grant (ex-Paper Lace) – £139pp;14 Apr (Easter) with the Frankie Valli Story & The Cufflinks – £159pp; 24 June with Gee Bello & Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations) - £149pp; 22 Sept with Vicki Lambert & The New Honeycombs - £149pp.

INCLUDED: Entertainment both nights • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV, tea/coffee tray and free wifi • Free parking

We Love the 60s Seaside Christmas Parties

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

10 & 17 November, 2017 • Quote: CP11-1/2-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for an early taste of Christmas - for over 40s only - as we rock the weekend away to the sounds of the 60s. Our brilliant November 10 entertainment bill features Marty Wilde and the Wildcats, Union Gap, The New Honeycombs, Dave Grant of Paper Lace and The Beatle (John Lennon tribute). You'll enjoy non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and half-price drinks at this rockin' party weekend.

November 17 entertainment features The Barron Knights, The Swinging Blue Jeans, Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations) and The New All Stars.

INCLUDED: Half Price bar drinks - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers - lunch times and evenings from Friday night to Sunday night • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - club upgrade available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free parking

Lake Bled Castle & Christmas Markets

Slovenia & Austria by Air from Gatwick

30 November, 2017 - Quote: XB11-KOS

Christmas time at Lake Bled, Slovenia, is just magical - framed by the snow-capped peaks of the majestic Julian Alps, Bled is a dream location. Our hotel is on the Lakeside with a Christmas market situated outside - a perfect setting for this build up to Christmas. Highlights include: lunch in Bled Castle, high above the lake with spellbinding views; the gingerbread factory in Radovljica; Ljubljana, Slovenia's charming capital with its stunning Christmas market; and Klagenfurt Christmas Market in Austria.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return flights with cabin baggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 4 nights half board in a 4-star lakeside hotel in Bled • Lunch in Bled Castle • All excursions • Transfers abroad

*Conditions apply to low deposit - please call for details

Isle of Wight Sounds of the 60s Carry on New Year Party

Warner Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight

Friday 5 January, 2018 - Quote: BE1-KOS

GN Holidays & Voyages are taking over Warner's Bembridge Coast hotel again in early January 2018 - our 10th year in a row. Our must-do annual party, for over 40s only, has guests returning year after year to 'Carry On' celebrating the New Year. With a packed entertainment programme featuring original 60s bands Union Gap and The Cufflinks plus Vicki Lambert's tribute to 60s divas, great food, Free drinks from 6pm to midnight nightly, and free car ferry crossing, you're assured a great start to 2018.

INCLUDED: Free drinks 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights standard en-suite chalet - upgrade to main hotel building from £30pp • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free car ferry • Free parking

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motability

Why scheme may be ideal for you

Nissan Qashqai

MOTABILITY has radically changed the way disabled people and their families live their lives.

The government-backed scheme enables them to get on the road for much less than it would cost to buy or lease a new or nearly new car privately, and helps them and their families with potentially costly adaptations for controls or wheelchair access.

On top of that, the scheme's regular payments can take care of the everyday running costs of insurance, maintenance and repairs, and even breakdown assistance – a huge reassurance when motoring costs are soaring.

What is more, Motability does not insist that the disabled person is the driver; the car is made available for the benefit of that person, which means that up to two other named drivers can be on the car's insurance cover instead of the disabled person.

For more about this liberating scheme for disabled people, see inside this special supplement.

Toyota C-HR

> **The scheme's regular payments can take care of the everyday running costs of insurance, maintenance and repairs, and even breakdown assistance**

Peugeot 308 SW

VERSO

NIL Advance Payment* | Toyota Safety Sense | Air conditioning | Hill-start assist control | 5* NCAP safety rating

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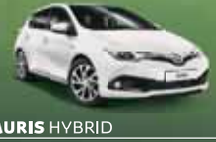
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Motability

*Verso Active 1.6 V-matic Manual at NIL Advance Payment. Model shown is a Verso Icon 7-Seat 1.6 V-matic Manual at £95 Advance Payment. AYGO x-press 5 door 1.0 VVT-i at NIL Advance Payment, Yaris Icon 5 door 1.4 D-4D Manual at NIL Advance Payment, Yaris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.5 VVT-i Auto at NIL Advance Payment, and Auris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.8 VVT-i Auto at £495 Advance Payment. Subject to availability. Please note that a total of 60,000 miles over three years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. Offer valid between 1st January and 31st March 2017. Available as part of the Motability Contract Hire Scheme.

Verso Icon 7-Seat 1.6 V-matic Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.8 (8.6), Extra Urban 49.6 (5.7), Combined 41.5 (6.8). CO_2 Emissions 157g/km. AYGO x-press 5 door 1.0 VVT-i x-shift. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 67.3 (4.2), Extra Urban 91.1 (3.1), Combined 80.7 (3.5). CO_2 Emissions 91/km. Yaris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.5 VVT-i Auto. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 91.1 (3.1), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 85.6 (3.3). CO_2 Emissions 75g/km. Auris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.8 VVT-i Auto. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 80.7 (3.5) Extra Urban 80.7 (3.5) Combined 78.5 (3.6). CO_2 Emissions 82g/km. All mpg and CO_2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

So just what does Motability allow?

UP to two nominated drivers can drive a Motability vehicle, but the disabled person qualifying for the scheme does not have to be one of them. The drivers may be friends or relatives, and parents or carers can apply on behalf of a child aged three years or older.

The car need only be used for the benefit of the disabled person, such as a shopping trip or collecting a prescription – they don't even have to be in the car. A third insured driver can be added for a small payment.

If you receive the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, you can apply for a Motability lease by exchanging part or all of that allowance.

Motability is a worry-free package that includes:

- A choice of around 2,000 car models
- Insurance, servicing and maintenance
- RAC breakdown assistance
- Road tax
- Tyre and windscreen replacement
- 60,000 mileage allowance over 3 years.

Car dimensions vary: seat height, door opening angle and storage space for wheelchairs and equipment can all affect whether the car works for you and your own disability, but your local dealer can take you through a questionnaire designed to ensure the car and Motability is right for you.

Many special adaptations are free to help with speed and steering, signaling and safety, stowage, and seating and access.

The Motability package continues to the end of your three-year lease, with a seamless transfer to your new car. Around 600,000 customers currently choose Motability and 97 per cent would recommend the scheme to their friends.

Touring Sport

> **Many special adaptations are free to help with speed and steering, signaling and safety, stowage, and seating and access**

Nissan NV200

Peugeot 2008

GRAND GARAGE

1-11 Harold Road, MARGATE, CT9 2HT 01843 227933 margate.peugeot.co.uk

Official Fuel Consumption in MPG (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the new 2008 SUV Range are: Urban 47.1 – 72.4 (6.0 – 3.9), Extra Urban 65.7 – 85.6 (4.3 – 3.3), Combined 57.6 – 80.7 (4.9 – 3.5) and CO_2 114 – 90 (g/km). MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. †Subject to availability and on selected models only. *Grip Control® feature is engine specific. Model shown is new 2008 SUV Allure 1.6L BlueHDi 100 at £349 Advance Payment. ^Rear parking aid is optional on Active level and standard on Allure & GT Line. Available to those in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance (DLA), the Enhanced Rate Mobility Component of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP), War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement (WPMS) or Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP). Offer available on cars ordered between 01/03/17 and 31/03/17. Information and offers correct at time of going to press. For full terms and conditions, please contact Peugeot Motability on Freephone 0800 877 8201. Calls may be recorded for training and quality purposes. Call charges to the number shown from landline or mobile networks may vary. For information please contact your network provider. Peugeot Motor Company PLC reserve the right to change or amend the offer at any time. Please visit peugeot.co.uk/motability for details of our latest offers.

Do your research before you shop

MOTABILITY's range of more than 2,000 vehicles can seem daunting.

Fortunately, the scheme's website has a search function allowing users to quickly create a short list of comparable cars, taking account of buying parameters, mixing typical consumer searches and the specialist needs of Motability users.

Search by car details takes a consumer-style approach and includes:

- What kind of mobility allowance the user has
- What level of advance payment the user intends to pay, if anything
- Preferred car type, make, model and number of doors
- Whether the user wants a manual, semi-automatic or automatic gearbox
- Whether the driver is under-25

But there are two other search programmes: Search by Accessibility Needs, taking account of car measurements; and Search for a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV).

There is also excellent advice on what type of car to look for, in language more relevant to disabled users, such as:

- How smaller two-three-door cars generally have wider doors with larger opening angles that may make access easier, but may be both harder to close generally and harder to open wide in narrow parking spaces.
- How hatchbacks have a raise-up rear door or 'hatch', which could make it harder for a wheelchair user to open/close or access items, or simply be problematic when opening in the garage.
- Extra space in estate cars can be more convenient for a disabled person as the load area may be used to carry disability aids, but the vehicles can be longer and bulkier.

> **The scheme's website has a search function allowing users to quickly create a short list of comparable cars**

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motorline-nissan.co.uk

Motability offers you the ability to enjoy worry-free motoring

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To find out how Motability can help you, talk to our specialist today.

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

Juke Range: URBAN 29.7-64.2mpg (9.5-4.4L/100km); EXTRA URBAN 46.3-74.3mpg (6.1-3.8L/100km); COMBINED 38.7-70.6mpg (7.3-4.0L/100km); CO2 emissions 172-104g/km. Qashqai Range: URBAN 37.2-67.3mpg (7.6-4.2L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 52.3-78.5mpg (5.4-3.6L/100km), COMBINED 47.1-74.3mpg (6.0-3.8L/100km), CO_2 emissions 138-99g/km. Fuel consumption figures for Nissan LEAF - CO2 while driving: 0. MPG: N/A. X-Trail Range: URBAN 34.9-49.6mpg (8.1-5.7L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 51.4-62.8mpg (5.5-4.5L/100km), COMBINED 44.1-57.6mpg (6.4-4.9L/100km); CO2 emissions 149-129g/km.

Advance Payment prices are available to applications made during the current pricing period (01/01/2017 to 31/3/2017) at participating Dealers only. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE MOTABILITY SCHEME, YOU MUST BE IN RECEIPT OF THE HIGHER RATE MOTABILITY COMPONENT OF DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE, THE ENHANCED RATE MOBILITY COMPONENT OF THE PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT, THE WAR PENSIONERS' MOTABILITY SUPPLEMENT OR THE ARMED FORCES INDEPENDENCE PAYMENT. The facilities offered are for the hire (bailment) of goods. This offer is eligible for Customers only and is not available in conjunction with any other Nissan offer or scheme. This is a trademark of Motability, registered charity 299745. Models shown are for illustration purposes only. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing, in accordance with 2004/3/EC directives and intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results. (Optional equipment, maintenance, driving behaviour, road and weather conditions may affect the official results.) Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD39YS.

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the All-New Renault Mégane range are: urban 36.2 (7.8)–68.9 (4.1); extra-urban 57.7 (4.9)–80.7 (3.5); combined 47.1 (6)–76.4 (3.7). The official CO_2 emissions are 134–96g/km. Figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EU Legislation and may not reflect real-life driving results.

All-New Mégane Sport Tourer Dynamique Nav TCe 130 monthly payment based on £6,000 deposit, 24 monthly payments of £249, optional final payment of £7,674. Finance provided by Renault Finance, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Indemnities may be required. UK residents only (excluding the Channel Islands). Over 18s. Terms and conditions apply. Offer based on 6,000 miles per annum, excess mileage 8p per mile inc VAT. Finance available on selected new vehicles when ordered and registered by 31st March 2017. All-New Mégane Sport Tourer shown with optional metallic paint, available at £545.

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www.motorline.co.uk/renault

Book a test drive

driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MEET THE PRIDE: The latest Peugeot fleet includes the 308GTi (left), the 3008 (above), the 108 below) and the 5008 (bottom) each offering their own unique features.

Peugeot's bid for a lion's share of the SUV sector

LION brand Peugeot is roaring ahead with a pride of new and recent models - notably the second generation 3008 and 5008.

Both are now SUVs (sport utility vehicles) representing a complete change of concept, the 3008 having morphed from being a crossover, while the 5008 was a people carrier (MPV) previously.

They show Peugeot recognising, but wholeheartedly embracing the burgeoning SUV sector.

Our recent first drive of the 3008 showed it to be stylish, refined and upmarket, and we don't doubt that the seven-seat 5008 will be any different when it arrives in May.

They join the smaller 2008 to create a formidable SUV line-up, the 2008 being previously touted more as a crossover, but now looking chunkier after a recent facelift.

But Peugeot has other sharp-suited models to boast about, including the refined and elegant 308 hatchback series.

We particularly like the capacious yet classy SW (estate) sporty GT Line range, and GTi performance flagship.

As ever, Peugeot also has a powerful supermini contender with the current 208 line-up featuring luxury and sporty options – again crowned by a GTi that evokes the legendary 205GTi. The 208 also comes with many personalisation packs.

The smaller 108 city car offers similar customisation especially with the popular roll-back roof option. Inspired by a joint project with Citroen and Toyota, it does boost the 108's status as probably the poshest of the three clones.

Another significant draw for Peugeot is Just Add Fuel, an attractive PCP (personal contract purchase) package that does just what it says on the tin. Each monthly payment covers all major motoring costs: comprehensive insurance, road tax, servicing, roadside assistance and warranty, all in a three-year finance package.

All the driver then does is...just add fuel.

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KENT LIFE

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Representative Example.

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CT 200h prices start from £21,995. Model shown is CT 200h SPORT £24,855, includes optional metallic paint at £610.
Terms and conditions: *3.9% APR Representative, £1,250 finance deposit allowance and a £750 Centre deposit contribution available on new retail sales of CT. 24-42 months on Lexus Connect (PCP), up to 35% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. CT new retail sales. Ordered and proposed for finance between 9th February 2017 and 31 March 2017, registered and financed by 30 June 2017 through Lexus Financial Services. Participating Lexus Centres. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Lexus Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC. Registered Office: Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The MPG figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. They are provided for comparability purposes, and may not reflect actual driving experience. CT 200h Sport fuel consumption and CO_2 figures: urban 68.9 mpg (4.1 l/100km), extra-urban 70.6 mpg (4.0 l/100km), combined 68.9 mpg (4.1 l/100km), 94g/km CO_2 (15% BIK).

New life for DS3 after Citroën divorce

The stylish arrival of DS3 hatch and Cabrio has severed the final ties between Citroën and the now standalone, but ready to compete, DS premium brand

MANY motor industry watchers gave a collective sight of relief when DS divorced from Citroën.

This strange marriage began in post-war France, with Citroën championing cheap motoring through cars like the 2CV and Ami, while its advanced and luxurious DS series pandered to the urban elite during the 50s/60s.

This complicated relationship resumed in 2009 when mainstream Citroën revived the DS badge for a new premium supermini, the DS3. Something had to give and the divorce was announced in 2014.

Since then, all three existing DS models have had a facelift and given their own identity – without any Citroën branding – giving a new lease of life to the DS3, in particular.

Priced from £14,735 for the hatchback or £18,935 for the chic Cabrio, it remains a classy proposition with customisation options on a par with the BMW MINI, and made more eye-catching by the deep DS grille and chrome 'wings' extending beneath the headlights.

It has also gained aggressive faux air scoops housing LED running lights, contributing to a braver and cleaner look than the former and more bulbous Citroën front end.

Inside, buyers get a seven-inch touchscreen and equally tempting interior options, notably DS's Nappa 'watchstrap' leather seating.

Aside from style the DS3 remains a practical small car for the image-conscious; even the rolltop Cabrio carries five and has a decent boot.

And it is a driver's car when you want it to be, though engine choice is crucial: avoid the lumbering 120bhp 1.6-litre BlueHDi diesel option – surely diesel superminis have had their day? - which is as much of a drag to drive as the zingy new 130bhp 1.2 petrol turbo is fun.

But I was even luckier with the test car choice: the flagship turbo-charged 210 (208bhp) 1.6-litre petrol hatch in racy Performance trim with 15mm lower sports suspension, Brembo brakes, slick six-speed close-ratio 'box, and limited slip differential to keep traction through the front wheels sensible.

The four-cylinder engine is one of a series developed by PSA (Peugeot-Citroen) with BMW, which happens to produce the test car's most obvious rival, the MINI Cooper S.

The engine is smooth and refined, while the suspension is tenacious on corners yet forgiving enough to deliver a hot hatch that you can live with for those times where the car's driver-pleasing dynamics can't really be exploited ie stuck in slow moving town traffic or cruising the motorway. However, such good manners won't please every hot hatch fan.

DS3 THP 210 S&S Performance

Price:	from £27,995
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	MINI Cooper S

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Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEQM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

highways england

A20 TRUNK ROAD - DOVER
TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Notice is hereby given that Highways England Company Limited(i) intends to make an order on the A20 Trunk Road in the County of Kent, under Section 14(1)(b) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 because of a likelihood of danger to the public.

The effect of the Order would be to authorise the prohibition of any vehicle travelling in either direction on the A20 in the District of Dover making a U-turn at the following junctions –

(a) Prince Of Wales Junction (Union Street); and

(b) York Street Junction (A256).

The Order would come into force on 2 April 2017 and would apply for 18 months.

The prohibition would be clearly signed for the duration of the Order.

P Ryder, an Official of Highways England Co Ltd.
Ref: HE/SE/2017/A20/63

(i) Highways England Company Limited, (Company No. 9346363). Registered Office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4LZ. A company registered in England and Wales.

For enquiries, please contact the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 or info@highwaysengland.co.uk
http://www.highways.gov.uk

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LAND ACQUIREMENT ADJACENT TO ROCHESTER ROAD

AJA Holdings Ltd are giving formal notice by public advertisement for the acquisition of a strip of shrub land adjacent to the rear of their existing office. The land in question is to facilitate a change of use and will be used for new car parking facilities. If you have any objections to the aforementioned, please contact us on 01634 863 818 or email your queries to info@southeastrefurbishments.co.uk

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

STOPPING UP OF LAND AT WRAIK HILL, WHITSTABLE

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates' sitting at Canterbury Magistrates' Court on 25 April 2017 at 10:00 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Wraik Hill, Whitstable as on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the
highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform Carissa Humphreys by post to Legal Services, The Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, by email carissa.humphreys@kent.gov.uk, or by telephone 03000 416285 before 15 April 2017 quoting reference number LS/21/112615/628.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Carissa Humphreys using the contact details shown above.

ROGER WILKIN
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS,
TRANSPORTATION AND WASTE

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

STOPPING UP OF LAND AT LAND AT MARINA ESPLANADE, RAMSGATE

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates' sitting at Canterbury Magistrates' Court on 16 May 2017 at 10:00 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at Marina Esplanade, Ramsgate as on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the
highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform Carissa Humphreys by post to Legal Services, The Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, by email carissa.humphreys@kent.gov.uk, or by telephone 03000 416285 before 6 May 2017 quoting reference number LS/21/112302/628.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Carissa Humphreys using the contact details shown above.

ROGER WILKIN
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS,
TRANSPORTATION AND WASTE

Kennedy quits as chair after 9 years

And the county club confirms its financial figures for last year

Cricket

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE chairman of Kent County Cricket Club, George Kennedy, has confirmed he is leaving the role.

He was president of the county club in 2007 and elected the following year as chairman.

Working with CEO Jamie Clifford since 2010, the club has recorded a £1million improvement in its finances through cost-cutting, increased sponsorship and ticket revenues allowing some investment.

However, like all county sides, the club has continued to struggle, with it also announcing this week that its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation for the year was a loss of £65,835.

The sale of land, however, ensured an overall surplus of more than £1.8m. CEO Mr Clifford described 2016 as a "tough year".

Since Mr Kennedy became chairman, the club has sold naming rights to The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence to Shepherd Neame and invested in new club offices, café and convenience store as well as floodlights and refurbishment of the Chiesman Pavilion and Les Ames Stand.

Cricket has returned to a refurbished County Ground in Beckenham with a new 2,000-seater stand and modern indoor school to develop cricketers in metropolitan Kent.

Mr Kennedy said: "I've really enjoyed the challenge of helping the club navigate through some tricky times but I firmly believe Kent cricket is in much better health than it was in 2008.

"We had to get our house in order financially before making strategic investments to ensure stable year-round income for the club and back our homegrown talent to be the core of the Kent side going forward.

"I understand supporters want success but we had to rebuild steady foundations to give the club the healthy future it deserves."

CEO Mr Clifford added: "It was a tougher year from a trading perspective, but it is very encouraging that the club's overall financial health is much improved.

"I am sure all will join me in wishing George Kennedy the very best as he moves on – his input as chairman cannot be underestimated."

OFF: George Kennedy says the club is in a better position than it was when he became chairman in 2008 Pictures: ADY KERRY

Hundreds of players to battle it out for glory

Handball

MORE than 800 students from universities across the UK are coming to Medway to compete in the British University Handball Championships.

On March 18-19, they'll be going head to head to win the title at the council-owned Medway Park in Gillingham.

The event was first held in 2012 and has grown significantly year on year in line with the surge in popularity of the Olympic sport of handball as a legacy of London 2012. Local teams representing the University of Kent will be among the 72 teams from all over the UK taking part.

England Handball took over organisation of the championships for the 2016/17 season and selected Medway Park as this year's finals venue.

READY: Medway Park is ready

David Meli, chief executive of England Handball, said: "Medway Park is a great venue for handball. This was shown when it hosted the men's under-21 European qualifiers, and the recent EHF Women's Challenge Cup ties between Olympia and LK Zug of Switzerland.

"I know the university teams will be impressed by the facilities at Medway Park and I am looking forward to watching a weekend of great handball, as the university competition reaches its exciting conclusion."

The two-day tournament will include men's and women's competitions, with matches also being played at Brompton Academy.

Spectators are welcome and can simply turn up on the day, although space will be extremely limited.

Sport Shorts

» Send your sport stories to tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

Konchesky quits Gills to join non-league side

GILLINGHAM confirmed on Friday that experienced defender Paul Konchesky has left the club.

The 35-year-old, who has two England caps, had been a regular under former boss Justin Edinburgh, missing just one League One game prior to the turn of the year.

But he has started only twice under the new Pennock regime.

He has left to join Ryman Premier League side Billericay Town.

The left-back joined the Gills last summer and made his debut in the 3-1 win over Southend United.

A spokesman for the club said: "Gillingham Football Club would like to thank Paul for his efforts during the time in ME7, and we wish him well for the future."

Konchesky had previously played for Liverpool, Leicester City, West Ham, Spurs, Charlton, QPR and Fulham.

The Gills went into the weekend in 19th place ahead of their game with Bury this Saturday.

OFF: Konchesky at Leicester

BALLS: Barry Hawkins has already won a major tournament this year

Hawkins eyes glory as he heads to Llandudno

DITTON snooker ace Barry Hawkins will be looking to keep his strong run of form going as he enters the Ladbrokes Players Championship in Wales this week.

The tournament, which boasts a £125,000 first prize, starts on Monday in Llandudno.

Hawkins, currently number seven in the world, is still on a high after winning his third major ranking event last month with success in the World Grand Prix Final at the Guild Hall in Preston, pocketing him a cool £100,000.

Now the player, who is being coached by former world champion and star of the sport's 1980s hey-day, Terry Griffiths, has his eyes on more success as the season builds towards the traditional showcase of the world championships in Sheffield in April.

Club's tributes to steward Bob

KENT has paid tribute to club stalwart steward Robert 'Bob' Deveson who has passed away.

Mr Deveson worked for the cricket club in the Harris Room for more than 15 years before his full retirement several years ago.

Born in 1928, he spent his whole life in Eastry. He left school at 14 and joined his father's bakery and took the business over in the mid-1960s and ran it until his retirement in the 1990s.

Honorary curator David Robertson said: "Bob was more than just a popular steward in the Harris Room. He went about his duties in a quiet, discreet and dignified manner – and went out of his way to make sure that everyone had an enjoyable day."

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